

Issue #24

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HOLY SOLDIER

Plus:

Believer

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Reader's Poll Results



Crucified

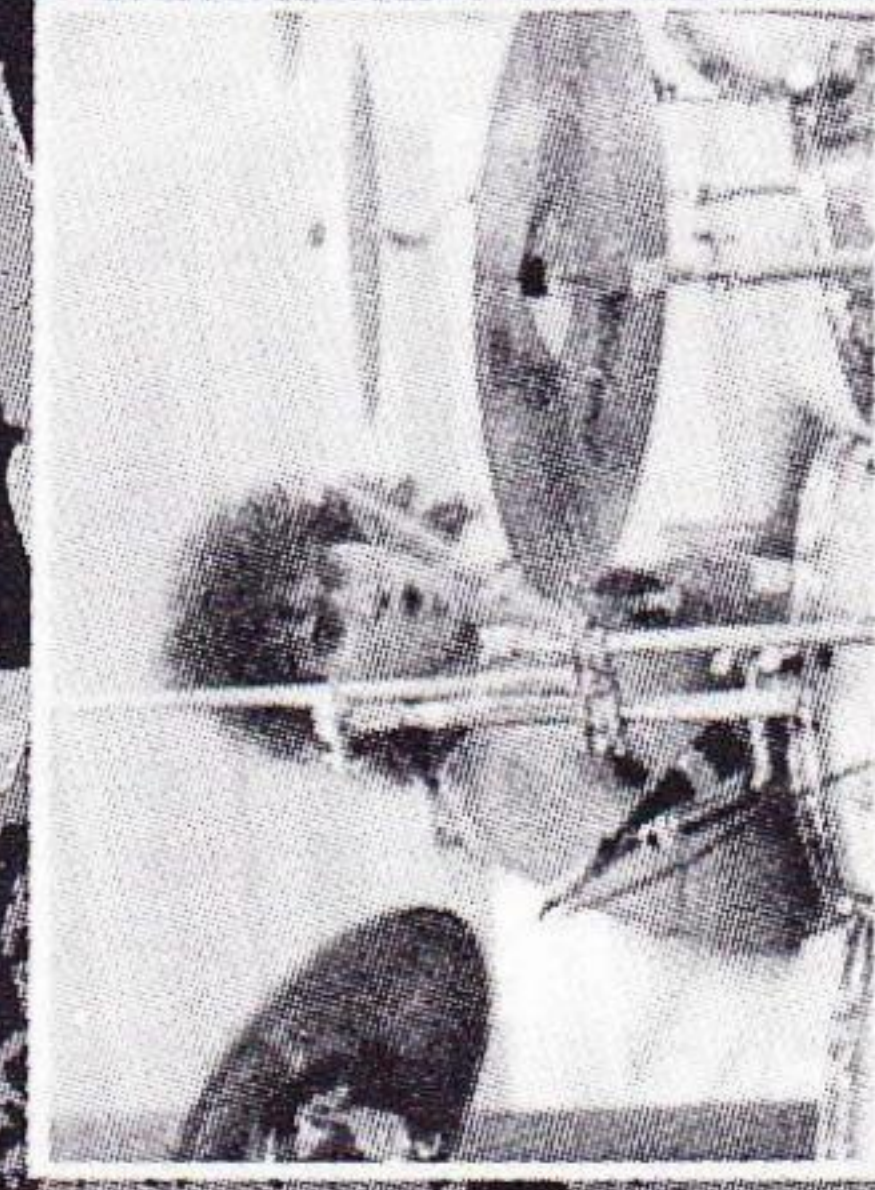
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Issue Number 24

Editor: Doug Van Pelt
Artists: Steve Schmutzer
Secular Rock Star Interviewer:
Phil Chalmers

Heaven's Metal address:
902 Romeria Drive #107
Austin, Texas 78757 USA
fax - (512) 454-0083

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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine that either goes in-depth to assist archeologists in Israel, or covers the world of Christian heavy metal; the choice is yours. Jesus is Lord.

Special thanks this issue to: Russell Smith for all his help with printing, etc; Grass-roots Marketing for the quality printing; Jack Clark at Myrrh Records for his excellent art direction on this cover and centerfold; Michelle Vargas for transcribing the Holy Soldier interview for me; Lauren for the artwork and transcribing the Driver interview; John Wilson for reviewing tapes and helping out with the mailing list, etc; Sheila for transcribing the Crucified interview; Karl Richter for transcribing the Be-

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There are a few **Back Issues** of HM available. They are: #18 (Illinois Noise *); #19; #20; #22; and #23. All others are sold out (* means available in limited quantities, with a maximum order of three). Each copy is \$2.95 (Foreign orders add \$3 Air Mail postage).

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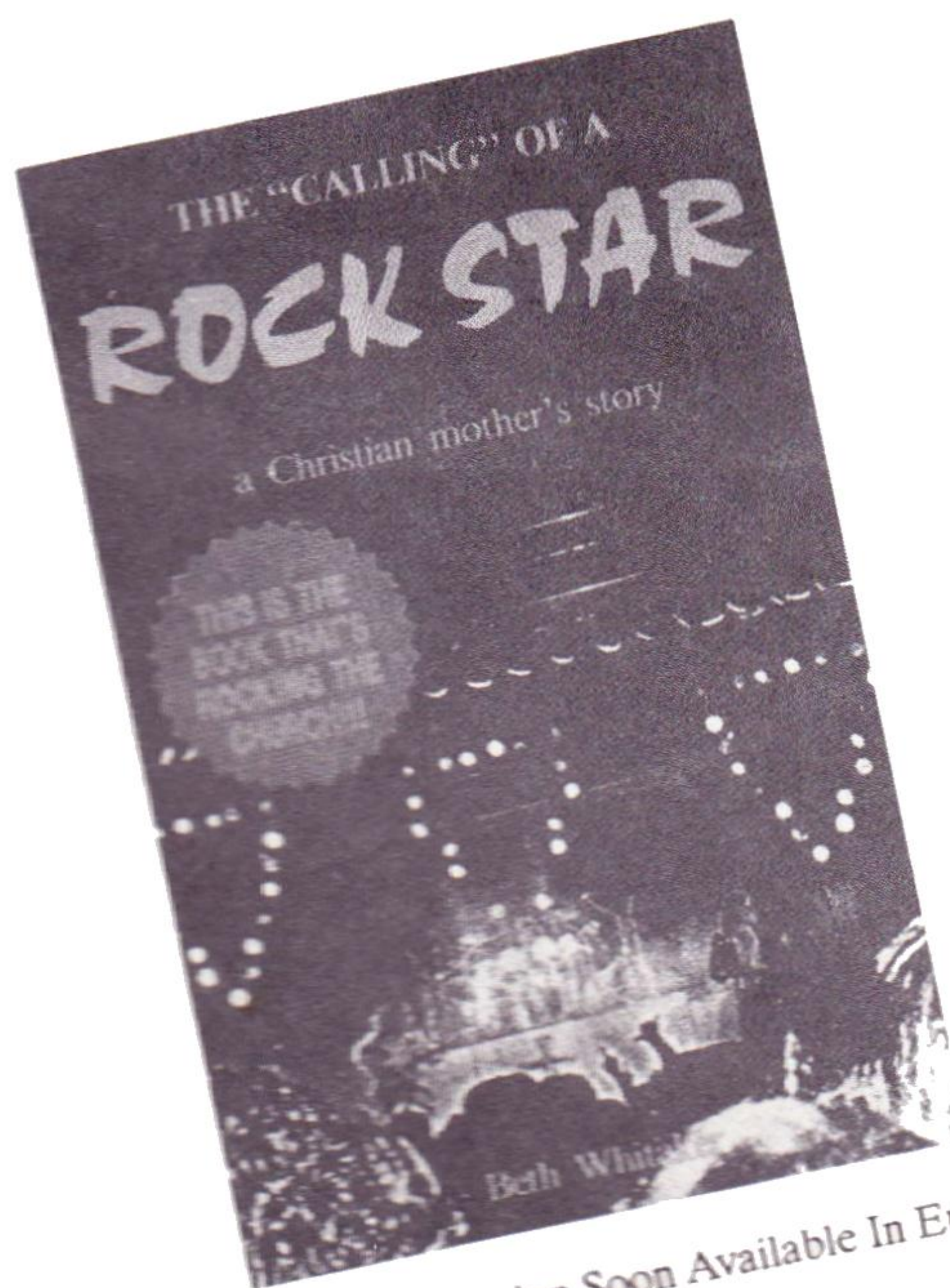
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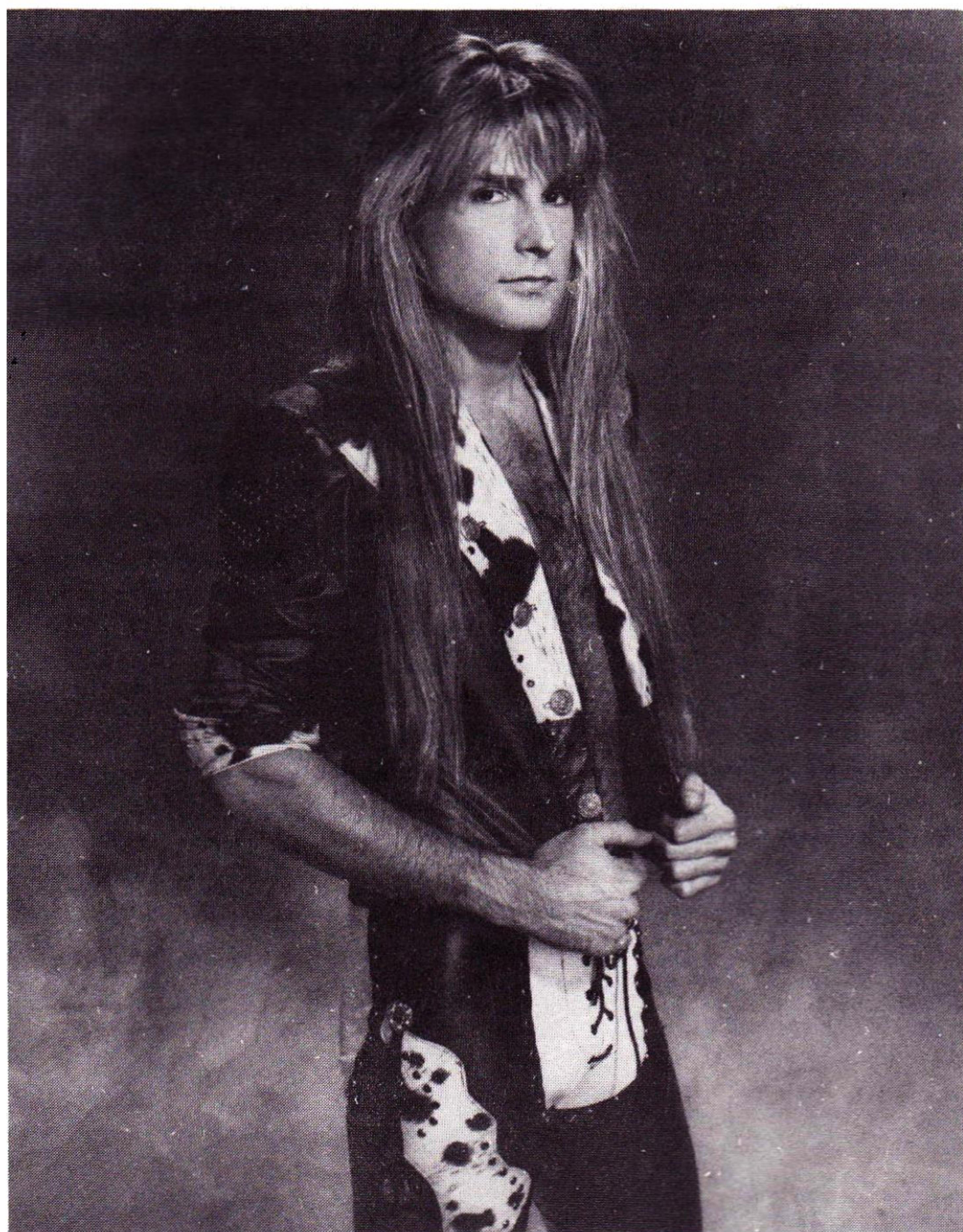
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IN THE TRENCHES WITH HOLY SOLDIER

By Dong Van Pelt



JAMIE CRAMER

The band you've been hearing about for three years is finally coming out with some recorded product. Those of you who have been waiting will agree, I think, that it was well worth the wait. These holy soldiers have put out a product that is really smokin' hot.

I met with the band in December at the Word sales conference in Austin, to talk about the songs, the recording experience, and the direction they want to take the band.

****How was the studio experience?**

"Wow," says guitarist Jamie Cramer. "It was intense. We spent most of the time recording all the vocals; all the backs; and everything else, so we hardly had any time to do the solos. Between our rhythms and the leads we were busy doing sequencing and stuff, like for the effects in the background and fly-ins and stuff. We never had time to sit down and work out our solos, so it was more like shooting off the head when we did them. 80% of the guitar solos were written while we were recording."

"The whole thing was a very stretching experience," says guitarist Michael Cutting.

We started totally from scratch. We went into the studio and I had to piece it all together with my producer there. I didn't get to do anything in pre-production, except sit in the pasture and write lyrics."

"Most bands go into pre-pro and tighten up their tunes and have a leisurely recording," explains Michael. "We walk in and: nothing. In five weeks we wrote ten songs, got them right, and then went into the studio and recorded them. It just kinda grew as we went into the studio, like this big puzzle that came together."

"I started to get really nervous toward the end," says Steven. "The enemy started to try to play with my mind and make me wonder, 'Am I going to be able to sound like I did on

"We felt like we were actually on one of those stretching racks. When David (Zaffiro) walked 'It was very neat,'" responds vocalist Steven Patrick. "We went up to Michael's parent's ranch in Fresno for five weeks of pre-production."

"For one thing, we wrote ten brand new songs. We didn't even use any of our old material. Usually, when you write songs, you write it around a melody, so you can make sure it has hooks and it'll flow right and that sort of thing. We didn't start with melodies.

the Victory tape, or be able to cut it?" I was sitting in my closet, where I do my studying, one night and I was just kinda chewing it and was kinda in fear, wondering if I was going to be able to do this, and then Daryn (Daryn Hinton--their mgr.) calls out of the blue. The first thing she says is, 'You know, I really support you and I really love you and you're really going to do it.' It was like God prompted her to call me. It was something I really needed to hear at the time.

"After I finished talking to her, I just kinda broke down and the Spirit of the Lord just came over me and I felt like He was going to use me in spite of myself. The fact that he was going to use me, even though I am unworthy, broke me. I went into the studio and everything went really well.

"It was an experience that really brought the band close together. We each have a lot of respect for each other. It was really tough. Flesh and blood was going down on tape. There were times where it was just like actual warfare going on. It was a lot of stress and a lot of pressure and a LOT of prayer, but it all came out pretty well and we are all very pleased."



MICHAEL CUTTING

****Any funny stories you'd like to share from the experience?**

"Yeah," laughs Steven. "I'm usually very easy-going, but under those types of pressures and situations...like where you're hitting a note, a really hard note, and doing it over and over again to get it perfect--with the right vibrato, the right execution, the right attitude...you're combining all these things to try and get this note right, and you're doing it for an hour and a half--you get real edgy. So, Patty (a member of their management team) ran out and got me a bunch of dishes and plates at the store. Whenever I got to that point to where I thought I was going to explode, I'd just take one and go out to the dumpster and hear that 'CRRRRRAASH!!!', and it'd be okay."

"There's this high note at the end of *See No Evil* that holds on forever. It's, like, full voice and something like a high C, and it just goes on forever. I had to do this note over and over, just to get it right; and, on the last time I did it, I was sitting there, holding it, and when I finished I started getting this head rush. This has happened to me before from time to time, so I started to go to the ground and I felt my body, like, freaking out and jolting, and the next thing I know I'm blacked out and I'm waking up and saying, 'Hello. Hello, Dave?'"

****Have you been nervous and experiencing lots of pressure being Myrrh's first metal act?**

"Before the record we were," admits Jamie. "Now that the record's done, we're ready to go."

"We're very honored," says Michael.

"We feel very blessed and fortunate," echoes bassist Andy Robbins. "It's like a family...like we were meant for each other. There was a lot of pressure at first, because they were saying, 'We've gone almost around the world looking for a metal band, and we love you guys and want to sign you.'"

"We were like, 'Wow! Why us?'"

"Yeah," adds Michael. "Other bands deserve it more, because they're probably more spiritually together, or they're better, or something. We just felt really inadequate. We rejoice and praise God. We wanna make 'em really proud."

"We originally were shootin' for a secular deal. After meeting the guys at Word and rappin' with 'em and stuff; we just knew that Myrrh is home for us. Everybody's supportive. They have the same exact vision that we've always had."

"God gave us His best," adds Terry.

Heaven's Metal asked Myrrh's Artist and Repertoire (A & R) guy, Mark Maxwell, why they signed Holy Soldier. He said, "Holy Soldier is musically and vocally original; they are seasoned, charismatic performers; they are a 'real band'; they are spiritually mature and sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit; and, finally, they are supported by creative and experienced management."

****Why don't you give me a run-down of the songs on your album?**

"Well, *See No Evil* is the song Steve passed out on," chides Michael.

"In that song we brought in little kids from the Hiding Place church," says Steven, "to do the sub-choruses of 'thousands come/ thousands go...'. They were from five to nine years old and I rehearsed with them a couple Sundays before we did it. When we brought them in, there's this part where this little girl named Shawna Casarez did the part in the bridge that goes, 'Mommy, can you hear me? Mommy, mommy, I'm afraid.' She's this actress' daughter, and she's like 'I don't want to act. I want to sing.' I was like, 'Do you see this big pot of candy? I'll give you the whole thing if you do it.' She said, 'Okay.' So, we bribed her to do this whole thing."

"We're really proud of that song," says Michael.

"It's basically a song written from a child's viewpoint," says Steven, "because we didn't want to condemn anyone. What we're interested in is saving lives, and everyone can relate to a hurting child, or hearing your child hurt. We figured that, if anyone ever heard the song that was planning on having an abortion, they would find no possible way of going through with it after hearing that."

"It's important to tour as much as you can in the first couple of years."

"The chorus pretty much sums it up. 'It's like, 'see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil.' Nobody wants to look at it and nobody wants to really deal with it.'"

"That's what we like to do," says Michael. "A lot of people like to always play it safe. It might be controversial and some people may have a lot to say about it; some people may cheer us on for it and some people may hate us, but that's how we felt about it and we just addressed the issue."

****How about the song *The Pain Inside Of Me*?**

"That professional solo was created by Jamie Cramer," says Michael. "This song doesn't say a lot about God, but it says what is needed to wrap it up, that God is the anecdote."

"Everybody can relate to this song," says Jamie, "because I think everybody has had a bummed relationship down the line, and everybody's been hurt. It's not a good feeling. God knows our pain and He's our comforter. This song's about a broken relationship

basically, or whatever it may be that causes pain, and how to deal with it, that God can fill the void where the pain is."

"You know," says Michael, "some Christian bands get a lot of flak for singing a love song. 'Well, you're not singing about Christ,' or 'Why are you singing about that?' It all just goes back to us and reality: This is stuff we go through in real life."

****What about *Cry Out For Love*?**

"That song was a lot of fun," says Jamie. "We wanted to do something outside of what we would normally do. When we wrote the record, we wanted to have a different feel on every song. No two songs imitate each other and, by the time you get to the last song, you feel like you've been places."

"We didn't have any boundaries or limits when we were writing, so we decided to have fun and break loose."

****I really like the guitar tones on that one. It reminds me of the post-modern/alternative sound, kinda like the way Bang Tango and The Cult incorporate that sound with metal.**

"Yeah," says Michael, "on both that song and *Love Me*, we had a band like The Cult in mind. We try to cater to a song for what it needs. That song needed some kind of tones like that or it wouldn't have been right. So, we backed the pre-amps way up and got a good, old-fashioned, over-driven Fender-type sound."

"The title of the song says exactly what the song is about," explains Terry, "someone who's searching the world to find that void and that love that only Jesus can fill."

"Even when you find it," adds Steven, "and you find God, you're always wanting to get closer. You get it, but you want more."

The leads for *Tear Down The Walls* were recorded in a unique way. "David (Zaffiro), Mike and I were sittin' in a circle," explains Jamie, "and I'd do a lead right after the big 'Tear down the walls!' and then I'd pass it to David, he'd do a lead right after the 'Tear down the walls!' and he'd do a fill, and then pass it to Mike. We went around in a circle until we got to the end of the song. Most of those licks were just one pass. We were in a hurry, so whatever you did stuck on the album. It was very fun!"

"This is a perfect example of the theory: The way you play determines a lot of your tone," says Michael. "I used to hear people say that when I was younger. You know, you could go out and get Eddie Van Halen's rig, but you wouldn't sound like him. The mature players will tell you it has a lot to do with your fingers and how you play. We had the same guitar, same amp and everything here, yet there's three different tones on that song. You can hear each one of us."

****Tell me about *When The Reign Comes Down*.**

"It's basically about the verse in the Bible which talks about how we war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers of darkness in high places," says Steven, "which is the force behind rapists and murderers. It goes into the pre-chorus, where it talks about desire conceived in the mind of greed, giving birth to sin, and sin brings death. It's talking about how it goes on and on."

"Steven did an awesome job on the lyrics to that song," says Michael.

****Eyes Of Innocence** has my favorite lead on the album. Tell me about that one.

"It's funny," says Michael, "because I was fumin' on that one. This was my time of really stretching. It was the last song and I wanted it to shine, because that was my one ballad to do. Jamie did the solo on the other ballad and I wanted to make this one a real soaring, sweet solo."

"It was the last song we worked on, and the acoustic tracks on it took me a few days to do, because they were so demanding. I doubled the guitars, and they had to be perfect. It meant nights of work."

"We didn't want anyone else to do the parts," says Jamie. "We played on the whole record and didn't want to have to hire some 'hired-gun' to come in and do the acoustic part."

"It came down to the last night," continues Michael, "and there was only 15 minutes left to do the solo before taking the tape to the studio we were mixing at. If I couldn't finish it in time, the song wouldn't be on the album. God really helped me finish it in time."

"Andy and I were playing chess at Master Control," relates Jamie, "where the tape was being mixed, when Mike came in. He had been up for something like 40 hours straight. He walks in and he looks like about five men jumped him in the alley. He just looked beat to heck. He was bummed out about that solo, because sometimes when you play something and you're hearing it back, you're not hearing it from the right perspective. Somebody can say, 'Wow, that was great!' but in your mind you think it stinks, because you can do it better.' He was crushed--almost to the point of tears."

"I was too tired to cry," says Michael, "but I probably would have."

"He thought the solo was terrible," continues Jamie, "and they went in to mix it, and I was standing there listening, and I go, 'Dude, that solo kicks! That's a smokin' solo. It just soars and really compliments the song.' About a week later, after getting his senses back and stuff, he realized it was okay."

****How do you two decide who's gonna do which solo?**

"Well, we throw on the gloves and..." laughs Michael.

"What's funny is that we barter with each other for songs we want to do," explains Jamie. "For instance, *When The Rain...* was

my solo and I had absolutely no inspiration for that one. It's my least favorite song on the album and I was dreading going in and having to cut my solo for that. I think a day or two before I asked Mike, 'Dude, do you wanna do it?' He said, 'Okay.' and I said, 'Well, what have you got to trade for it?' I think he traded *Lies* for it."

****Comment on the song Love Me.**

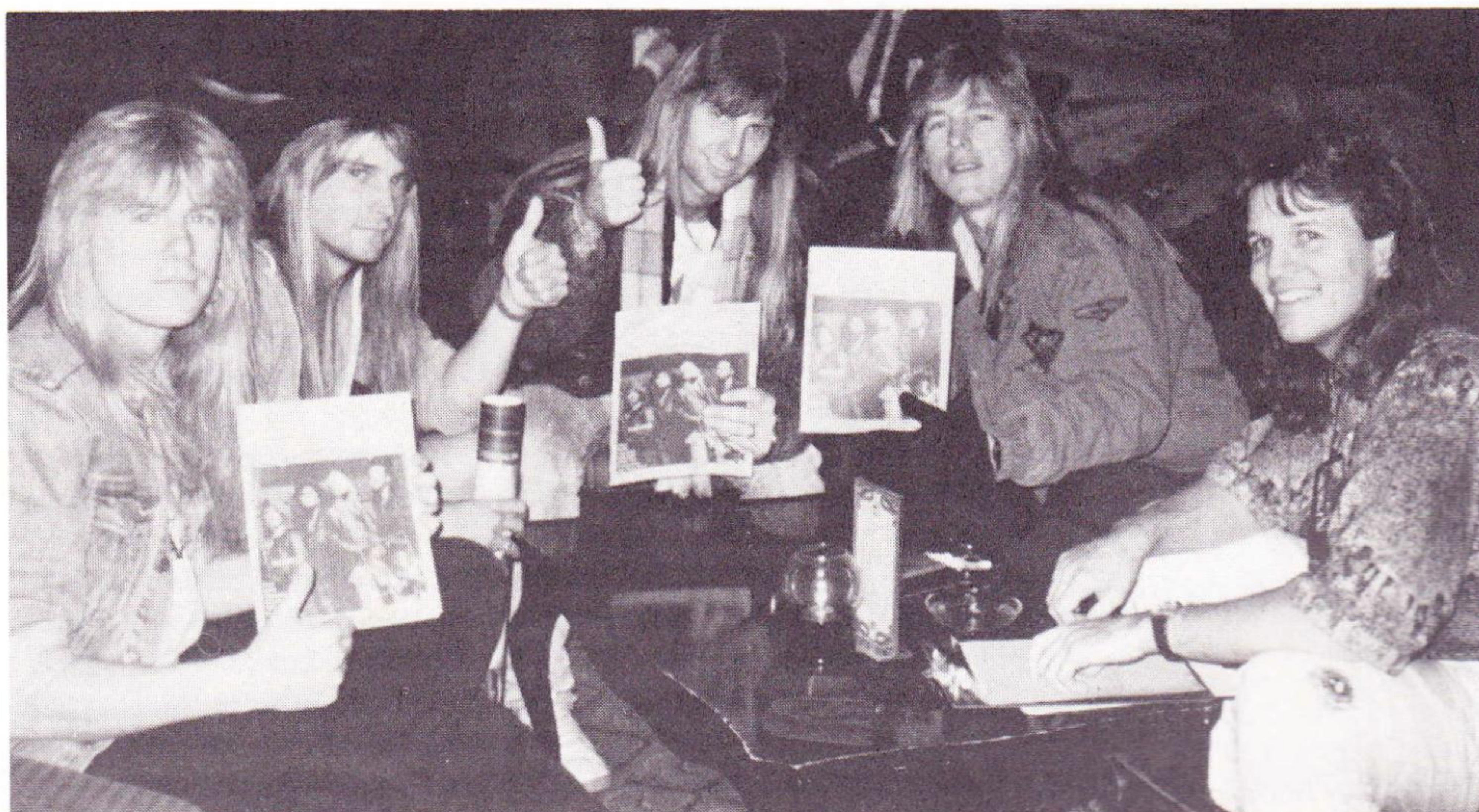
"This song was lyrically very personal to me," says Steven, "but, when I was doing the vocals for it in the studio, the guitar lines were way down and all I could hear were these backup vocals. So...I was hating the song. I was thinking, 'Maybe if I spill some Gatorade on the two-inch tape and say, 'Sorry! It was an accident...Oh well, it won't be on the record.'"

"I would get bummed singing it, so Dave would take me out and give me a pep talk. I'd get all excited and start singing it, but there was no conviction. Finally, when the sun was coming up, after several pep talks, I kicked in gear and finished it. Then we went back in there and prayed to God to do something with



STEVEN PATRICK

the song, and then we discovered the guitar harmonies that run through the chorus, so we brought those up and we were like, 'Wow! This is a killer song!' It was like God smokin' our face and going, 'Oh ye of little faith, have I brought you this far for you to have a song that is not acceptable?' Every song on there is



Holy Soldier salutes Heaven's Metal (L-R: Andy ; Jamie; Michael; Terry; and editor Doug V.)

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really good, and it's not us, because we wrote it in three weeks. If it was us, we would have written them two years ago...so, God gets all the glory for all of it."

****Comment on We Are Young, We Are Strong.**

"Basically it's just a song that edifies the young people," says Steven. "Some people think that, just because they're young in the Lord, they don't have as much validity as someone who's older. And that's not true, because God says He speaks through the mouths of babes and hides things from people who think they are all wise. It's up to young people to further the kingdom of God and they have a real big responsibility in doing that."

"Sometimes older people will burn out and lose the vision," laments Jamie, "or they'll give up the fight. As you get older, you get numb and callous. It happens to everyone, basically. God wants us to keep our child-like faith and look to Him and be like children. In the youth is where the future is, and that's where you've gotta hit."

"I think people who are older in the Lord are wise," says Steven, "and I like to listen to them, because they've been through a lot. Some people, that are new in the Lord, don't take that into consideration; and they really won't listen to someone who appears like a father figure or a parent or something like that. Basically, that's the reason we're here. We all come from a drug background and feel like we've been there and can relate."

****Do you have any touring plans?**

"Our management wants us out on the road about 10 months a year," states Jamie. "We wanna get on the road. I personally think that, in the first two or three years, it's important to tour as much as you can, to really put yourself out and get known. Hooking up with a big band is real important too. That's what we wanna do, but who are we to say what's gonna happen."

"Andy knows a lot of promoters throughout the country. We've got a line on almost all the rock clubs all the way to New York."

"Whatever happens," says Steven, "we'd be happy to play in front of one person if it's gonna make a difference in their life."

"It seems like God has always pushed us in the secular route," comments Michael. The band's been together as a whole for almost five years now, and I think we've played two churches out of 100 gigs. We'd do whatever, but if things keep going the way they have been, which is the vision God's given us, we're probably gonna stay in that vein."

****What kinds of promotion and marketing are you guys gonna do?**

"We're really gonna build on the concept of Holy Soldier," says Andy. "We do some neat little things, like leave these fake hand grenades in radio booths, and stuff like that. We've got dog tags and other related

stuff. We really wanna try and sell the image and charm the radio stations and get 'em excited about working with us."

"We wanna reach the multitudes," says Terry, "and the only way to do that is to get some massive promotion. If you're not out there, people don't know about ya."

"Being a band in L.A.," says Andy, "almost forced us to learn to be salesmen. We were without management for the first three years of the band. At that time, each person had his own duty: promotion, mailing list, rehearsal, etc."

"Another thing that we're doing," adds Steven, "is working on a secular distribution deal. Word is going to handle the Christian industry, and we can sign another deal for the secular market. That way we're placed in the hard rock section and not on the Gospel shelf in the record stores--where no one's gonna look for us."

"God says He came for the sick, not the well. We don't really consider ourselves as a form of Christian entertainment, although we are, but our ministry is basically directed toward audiences like Motley Crue's audience and people like that."

"Being that Steve sounds so much like Vince Neil," laughs Jamie.

****What are the biggest lessons that the Lord has taught Holy Soldier so far?**

"To not lean on our own understanding," says Steven, "and to look to Him for everything. To wait on the Lord and not get ahead of Him."

"The self thing," says Jamie. "To know when to let self take a hike. If we all walked in the direction of self, we would not be here right now. It's hard to determine sometimes. A lot of people wanna go a direction, and they feel God's leading 'em there, but it's like self is pulling the cart."

****How do you guys present yourself to--say a Christian versus a non-Christian audience?**

"We're us," says Jamie. "We're what we are. We don't conform to certain crowds." Holding out his arms, he says, "This is what you get. This is what we are. If you like it, hang out and listen."

"We don't

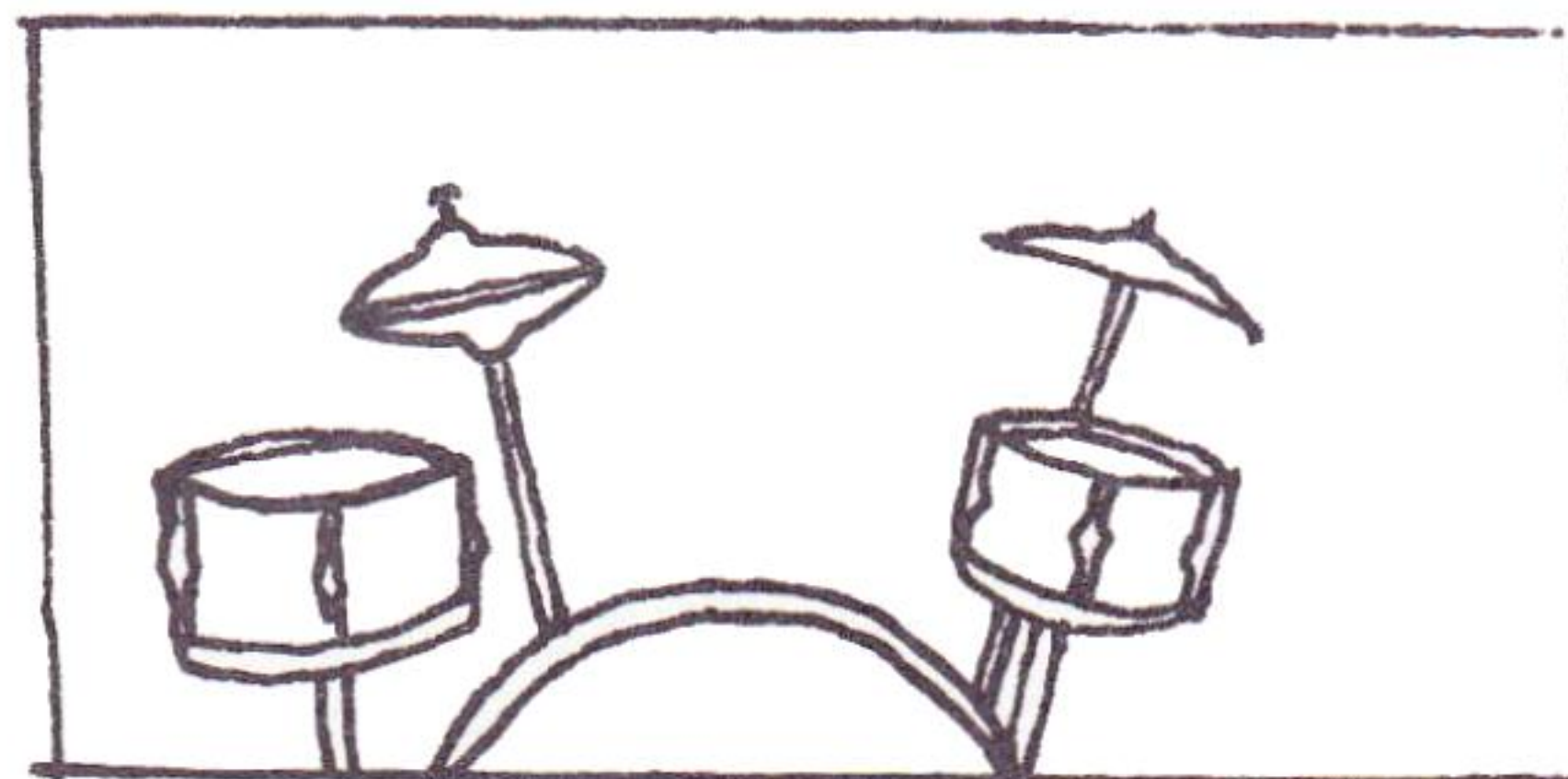
hide it from secular people," says Steven, "and we don't throw in extra 'Hallelujahs' for crowds of Christians. We're just us."

"I think what's made Holy Soldier special," says Terry, "is that we can relate to these kids. We've been through the drugs, the alcohol, and the heavy backgrounds where Christ came and set us free."

"God's kept us in a way that, as we grow and mature in the Lord, we can still remember what yesterday was like," recalls Michael, "and all the struggles we've had."

"It seems like yesterday," says Jamie, "and yet we have grown and matured in the Lord to the point to where we are secure in God. I don't think any of us want to go back to that."

"No one's above it though. As long as your heart and your mind and your focus is on Christ, no problem." HM



TERRY RUSSELL

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GETTING A GRIP ON THE CRUCIFIED

By Doug Van Pelt

Heaven's Metal caught up with The Crucified just after their debut album hit the racks. Here we have an interview with drummer, Jim Chaffin.

****Tell me about the people who have been in The Crucified, what bands they've played with, and stuff like that.**

"Currently, it would be Jim Chaffin-I'm the drummer--and basically, this is the only band I've been in."

****You weren't in Led Zeppelin?**

"Well, no. I played with Jimi Hendrix for a while, but he was burning up too many guitars, so I shined him (laughter)."

"Greg Minier is our guitar player, and he's only been in our band. Marc Salaman is our singer, and he's only been in Crucified. Then there's our newest addition, a guy named Jeff Bellew. He's been in all kinds of different bands. None of them ever went anywhere, but he's been in a lot of bands. He's the bass player and he just joined us about two months ago."

****How did the band start?**

"Greg and I were playing in our church band with our youth pastor and stuff, just playing basic, contemporary tunes and stuff. We saw how far behind we were in what we were doing. We tried to come to kids with Undercover or The Altar Boys and stuff, and they just pulled out GBH and Dead Kennedys and stuff, and it didn't compare, you know."

"So, we wanted to try and do something a little more harder-edged. That's basically why we started: we wanted to minister the Gospel through this music to get their attention a little more, so they wouldn't turn their heads so quickly away from it."

"We went through a lot of personnel changes. Greg and I started...and we've had one other singer, who was with us about a year, and Marc joined. We've gone through many a bass player. We're on our fourth right now."

****How hardcore are most of your gigs; as far as audience and atmosphere and stuff?**

"Well, we usually get a lot of punks there. Back when we were playing just strictly hardcore stuff, it was almost all punks...but we're playing a little more crossover stuff now, so it's just kind of a combination. Lately in L.A., there's been this gang that's been following us around and attending our gigs. We had a real problem with it."

"We just had a show this last weekend, and they were bringing this white supremacy junk--little fliers and stuff--and handing them out to people, and it was really

bogus. We had a big confrontation with them and everything, not fighting-wise, but just talking about it and stuff. We were trying to get them to leave, basically, because they've been to a million of our shows and they've heard the Gospel, but they just keep coming and causing problems, you know."

"They like to try to start fights and stuff like that. We've had a few gigs where there's been fights that have broken out. What happens is some of these shows are a church doing their first or second concert, and they don't have enough security. They let the wrong people in and they don't control them."

"They let them do whatever, because they're trying to be socially up-to-date or whatever, but they don't really have the savvy to really do it right. So basically, when we do Christian shows, most of the time it comes out kind of hairy if there's a lot of non-Christians there. Probably half of our shows are like that. We try to control as much as we can on stage, but after a while you kind of lose control, because you can only say so much."

****What's the general feedback from your unsaved audience?**

"'Love your music, hate what you say.' That kind of thing. They like to come hear the music, but I'd say probably 80% don't really want to hear what we have to say. There are a few out there who question it, and those people are really great. They're looking for something...they're looking for an answer, and they think they've got it figured out, and they're popping these questions at you and you just totally give them scripture that turns them upside-down, you know, and they're just like, 'Wow! Really?' It just totally leaves 'em speechless, which is really great."



Marc Salaman (Photo by Charles Daniels)

****That's pretty cool that you're pulling a draw, because there are a lot of bands to choose from and it seems like you guys got something going. They're not just blowing you off and ignoring you.**

"Yeah, exactly. It's totally been blessed, man. We're so amazed, because we're just a bunch of dudes from Fresno. How can God use us? But He does. He totally blows us away all the time. We really got to try to remind ourselves of that a lot. We're pretty much nobodies. We're so blessed that the Lord is even using us. It's amazing."

****Praise the Lord. That's really cool.**

"Yeah, He's a very awesome God."

****Amen. Well, how did the recording of the album go?**

"It went pretty good. We had a good time doing it, that's for sure, but we didn't quite have the budget or the studio we wanted. We're pretty much happy with it."

****What's your most important message?**

"The Gospel, definitely. Christ died on the cross for people's sin, and they can be new creatures in Him. That's definitely number one."

****What about number two?**

"Boy, that's hard...I'm trying to think of our songs. I really don't write a lot of the songs, but I know Marc's brain pretty well. Okay, number two is to really think about what you're doing. You know, not to just follow a crowd or do what looks cool, but really think about what you're doing and where you're going with your life."

****What about number three?**

"Shoot, I don't know. We do have a few songs on the new album that speak specifically to Christians, just to encourage them, you know, to have confidence in God and really know where we stand before God, and how much He really loves us and treasures us."

****That's cool. I've had a good time recently just really feeling the Lord's delight in me just for who I am. Just because He loves me. It's pretty cool.**



"Yeah, it is. It's amazing, especially when He says, 'Hey, I don't need to use you. I can make the rocks cry out.' There's so many people He could use, but He totally chooses the lowly, the lowly of heart, until He turns them around."

****How do you feel about Christians who shed their Izods for shaved heads and leather jackets?**

"That depends. If they're changing their mind and they really like the way that looks and they enjoy looking that way themselves, then I don't have much of a problem with it. If they're doing it because that's the new Christian fad or whatever, I think that's pretty foolish, myself. I've been to shows where the Christians show up with pink spray in their hair and crosses painted on their faces, and it's like they're trying to do what they think is punk or something. If they'd just be themselves...they don't have to make themselves up to be someone they're not, you know, because that turns people off more than anything."

****Do you have any other com-**

ments or stories about the fruit you guys have seen?

"Yeah. I got a call from this guy one night. He said, 'Are you from Crucified?'"

"I said, 'Yeah.'"

"Do you guys have a song called **This Howl?**"

"I said, 'Yeah, we do.'"

"He said, 'Well, I was really into Slayer and Venom, and this and that. But I listened to that song and it really made me think about...that I'm going to hell. Well, I really don't want to be in hell and stuff, so I became a Christian.'"

"I was just like, 'Uh...Wow! Really?' It just blew me away! I said, 'Well, praise the Lord!' And I just started talking to him and stuff. It was really, really awesome, because that was the first time I ever talked to somebody who had really accepted the Lord because of our tapes."

"That was such a blessing. He said, 'I just wanted to tell you that, you know, in case you guys think that God is not using you or something. I just want to encourage you, that He really is using you, because He really touched my heart and stuff.'"

"This kid was 14 years old and here he's talking about how God had touched his heart. Most 14 year old kids don't talk about God touching their heart, you know? We played a show a couple weeks after that close to his home town. It was neat. We hadn't played **This Howl** in years, but he showed up and asked us to play it, so we did."

"The band was just totally elated, man. We were just so high in the Spirit, you know, just knowing that this song God gave us, which we didn't even feel was any good anymore. God used it, it was really awesome."

****Can you paint a kind of personality profile of each member?**

"You're going to get me in trouble, man. (laughter) Marc Salaman: he's pretty mellow. He's into being groovy. He likes to be kind of funky. He's kind of a weird dude. He likes to wear sunglasses. He has that 'Joe Cool' image. He likes to be that, but he's not pig-



GREG MINIER (Photo by Charles Daniels)

headed, or a jock kind of attitude or nothing. He just likes that kind of feel.

"Greg: he's funny. He lives at home and really loves living at home. He's a pretty naive guy. He pretty much goes with the flow, actually. He likes things his way. He's pretty picky. He whines a lot too. We joke about that and we always tell him that he whines and pouts and stuff, you know. But actually, he really is a nice guy.

"Jeff Bellew: is one of those kind of guys who likes a lot of things. He likes so many different kinds of music. He likes Hank Williams Jr. He goes from that to jazz. He's a really, totally a gentle-spirited guy. He's like 6' 2" and weighs, like 250 pounds...a huge dude.

"Me: I'm a pretty pig-headed guy. I'm two or three years older than all the guys. When we first started I was 18 or 19, and they were 15, 16, and stuff and I kind of had to lead them around and everything and I never broke that. Now that they're 20 years old, you know, and I'm still kind of pig-headed, trying to be the daddy, and stuff like that. The amazing thing is that the Lord can bring us together and make something work, because we're pretty radically different as far as personalities go, but the Lord has made us really good friends."

**That's great. What about the different musical preferences of each member?

"Marc Salaman likes a lot of different things too, but his main deals are hardcore and funk stuff. Greg's main thing is more like thrash stuff. Like I said, Jeff likes anything and everything. I can handle some hardcore and some thrash, but I change all the time. Lately I'm starting to like more progressive, college radio kind of stuff, which is kinda mellow. I love playing thrash and hardcore more than anything. I don't know why, but I like what we play, but don't really like a lot of stuff I hear."

**Some friends and I used to have an outreach to what was a thriving punk scene in Austin around 1984, and we saw lots of hate. There were mellow people too, but a lot of hate came to the surface in that scene.

"It's really amazing. After being around fellowship and being able to go to church and be with my wife--all this love and harmony, you know--and then step into that scene...It's hard to imagine where these kids are coming from; until I remember back to when I wasn't a Christian and the things my parents did to me, and the situation at home. If you don't have God to cope with those things, then shoot, you're going to be a screwed up kid, ya know?"

**Did you go through a punk life-style?

"No. I was a punk, but not in the fashion sense. I was a jerk, you know, a boozier and wanted chicks all the time and stuff, but I never really went through a punk rock stage. I didn't really start listening to it until I became a Christian, like Undercover stuff. Then I



Marc being real.

opened up to it a little more...I definitely knew there was a need for it."

**I've heard a lot of stuff about the "Straight-Edge" scene, with groups like the Cromags. How would you describe what's going on there?

"It blows us away that God uses us... We're just a bunch of dudes from Fresno."

"Well, around here in California, there's a lot of different kind of people who are straight-edged. For a while you had to be a skinhead to be a straight-edge, then they decided it's okay to grow your hair out. From what I understand, their basic premise is: Be moral. Don't drink--to excess. Don't have sex--to an excess. You know, 'don't be excessive in anything', is basically what they're trying to say. 'Be moderate in everything. Be good citizens. Be a good American.'

"It's really different than punk rock, really different. They also believe, though, 'Don't let anyone tell you what to do. Don't follow anybody. Follow yourself...' kind of stuff. They're the kind of people that say, 'Yeah, I respect what you're doing, but I'm not into that. That's not for me.' They seek pretty much their own good, making themselves look good and feel good.

"It's gone through a lot of changes. Like I said, it used to be you had to be a skinhead and wear an X on your hand, and now

it's 'You can be straight-edged and drink, have sex, and cuss.' and then there's 'If you're straight-edged, you can't cuss; you've got to drink skim milk; eat vegetables...' Ha! You know, they're just branching off left and right. They can't decide what they want to do--kind of like the Christian church really. You know, start with the Gospel and then there's fragments there, salt here, pepper there...all over the place."

**Do you have any particular prayer needs, requests, or concerns that the Heaven's Metal readers can lift up to the Lord?

"Definitely. Just to keep a humble heart...humble and thankful. Being mindful of who we are and why we're doing what we're doing. The only reason I'm on the phone doing an interview with a magazine is because the Lord has decided to use us. He'll use us as long as He wants, and when He's done, He's done...you know, He'll have something else for us. We don't want to ride a dead horse.

Also that things would be a little smoother at our shows, as far as the crowd goes. It's like, this weekend with the skinheads there. In the middle of our set this guy comes up to me and says, 'Hey, watch your back when you guys are done, because the skinheads are real mad that you guys are saying stuff about white power.'

"I'm like, 'Oh great! Thanks.' That was the first time that ever happened, but I imagine the more we stand up in their faces for what is right, the more those kinds of things are going to happen. So, we could really use some prayer for that."

Those of you going to Cornerstone 1990 will have a chance to see The Crucified perform live. If not, you can pray that their efforts to book gigs elsewhere around the country will be successful. HM

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THRASHING ABOUT WITH BELIEVER

By Doug Van Pelt

Opposite page: Kurt Bachman
(Both photos by Steve Craig)

David



Here we have an interview with Believer guitarist and vocalist--Kurt Bachman.

****You know, I have no written questions, so this is going to be an off-the-hip interview.**

"Oh, that's cool. Let's make it real weird."

****Okay. What do you believe in?**

"Well, we believe that the atomic weight of Cobalt is 58.9."

****It's true.**

"We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He really did survive on this earth and went through a lot of the pain that we go through; that He died and rose again; and is the only way to the Father.

"As far as other things are concerned, we believe that all of the Bible is true."

****How many hours do you, as Believer--an entity, and individually--spend in front of the television?**

"Wow!," he says, pondering the thought for perhaps the first time, "not much at all. It's like, I sleep most of the day and get up at night and I'm cruisin' to work. Joe is the same way.

"I don't know, maybe we watch a flick or two, like on a weekend. Maybe about four hours per week. We have better things to do than watch tv. If we do watch it, we watch 'The Discovery Channel', or 'Cheers'. We like to watch old reruns of 'The Brady Bunch'."

****What do you think of Industrial Music?**

"I've heard some groups, like Ministry, and I'm pretty into it. I haven't gone out and actually purchased any, or anything like that, but I think that it's pretty cool. You can get pretty creative with it."

****How did Believer start?**

"Joey (Daub--the drummer) and I played in a lot of secular bands together in the past. Then he and I found the Lord and got saved. We put ads in different music magazines around

here, looking for guys. Dave (Baddorf), the other guitar player, never reads this one magazine and he picked it up looking for an amp and saw our ad. He answered it and came down. He fit right in, and went back to college that next year. Howe Kraft played bass, and he came in.

"So really, you know, the Lord put us together really quick. That's basically how Believer got together. That was about four and a half years ago. We've changed drastically since then. We used to play just regular metal. Of course, that bass player went to graduate school. He's workin' on a Christian psychology degree. Now we have a new bass player."

****It just goes to show you that graduate school is of the devil.**

"Is it? That's what I thought all this time." (laughter)

"Howe wants to be a missionary. Our new bass player, Wyatt Robertson, is fittin' in really good.

"We've changed drastically since then. We used to play just regular metal. It was lame. We weren't a good regular metal band. Then we got the calling for thrash. When we turned thrash we didn't do Vengeance or Deliverance or anything. We just did it. We had one tune called In Your Face. It was kinda heavy and we just decided to do it. That's where all our background was. We grew up with Metallica and a lot of other thrash bands.

"It was our background, so we prayed about it and really felt the calling to turn thrash. So, we did it. We're happy."

****What kind of touring plans do you have?**

"Well, right now we're comin' to Florida, the Carolinas, Virginia, and then we have a week and a half off. Then we're back in Minnesota, Chicago, Wisconsin, and Indiana. That's in February and March. After that it's like we get our schedules in short notice."

****Are they weekend dates?**

"No, they're just two to two-and-a-half weeks strung together. It's cool. We like doing it that way. We don't feel like we're ready to do our laundry on the road yet.

"Ya know, we're not mature enough for that stuff yet."

****Yeah, laundry is a heavy responsibility.**

"Yeah, so, you know, our manager says, 'Okay. I understand.'"

****What about another album?**

"Well, right now we're writing a lot of material. As for a release date, I couldn't tell you."



We wanna do it right. That's what's cool about R.E.X., with Doug Mann being in the company, it's like, he understands where we're coming from as far as being musicians.

"Our first album was a good, strong release, and we need to make the second one great. We don't want to compromise anything. We wanna take our time and get the right songs. Doug's not gonna say, 'Look! You've gotta do this at a certain time.' He's really cool towards that.

"The stuff we're writing now is very bizarre. It's really technical. It's still Believer, and you'll be able to tell it's us, but it's more advanced. It's a lot weirder and a lot more technical. There's a lot of bizarre time changes and stuff like that. If you wanted to compare us to some secular stuff, I'd say it's like a cross between Voivod, Kreator, and Watchtower."

**Watchtower is from Austin. I gave their bass player a Deliverance tape a couple weeks ago.

"Really?"

**Yeah, he was in line behind me at the post office.

"Really? Whoa. That's great. Yeah, they're a very intense band."

**They opened for Stryper here four years ago.

"Did they? Wow. That's cool, though."

**Well, you didn't have any ballads on your first album. Are you, like, gonna make up for it and have two on the next album?

"Yeah. We're thinking about that. You know, we're thinkin' about at least two ballads. We really want to play Disco."

**Yeah. That's where they money's at, you know. And polyester is on its way back.

"Yeah. That's what I heard (laughter). I mean, we're havin' a lot of new outfits made up for this tour. A lot of it's polyester. So that's basically what we're trying to do with the ballads, ya know."

**Who came up with your radical t-shirt designs?

"I went to school with this one kid, and he used to like to do comic strips in the school paper. He was really cool, and a good friend of mine and stuff. We had these other shirts done that had four face pictures of us that he did.

"We liked them, so we gave him full body photos of us and he just kinda made them into caricatures, and we had them printed up.

"We don't want people to think of us as absolutely, totally serious. As far as individuals, we're very serious about our Christianity, lifestyle, and stuff like that, but we're screw-offs. Very much so. We take our music really serious, though.

"Right now the tunes we're writing are gettin' very serious, as far as complexity goes. It's kinda like, you need to be in the right frame of mind."

**So, does thrash music cure acne?

"I've heard, in some cases, it has, but I've also heard in some cases it makes it worse, due to the aggressiveness of it. I heard that, when you listen to it, it releases certain hormones in your body that can make the face more oily."

**I notice, a lot of times, when you're sweating and you're wiping your face with your hand a lot...

"Yeah. That's the wrong thing to do. You should, like, get one of the alcohol rags to wipe your face off. We were thinkin' about sellin' stuff like that at our shows...For the audience, you know. We would call it 'The Kill Acne Tour'.

"But, ya know, in some ways acne has enhanced the thrash scene, like with Metallica's first album and stuff like that. It's kind of an image."

**What do you see happening in the next couple of years in the thrash scene?

"I see it really progressing musically. I think it will still always have a definite aggressiveness to it, as far as speed and certain things like that go...and the heaviness of it. I think the musicians are startin' to push themselves to be better musicians. They're not compromising certain things. They're wanting to be more advanced musicians."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

"WE'RE TOTALLY INSANE."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

"When they get together as a band and write material, it's going to be a lot more progressive and advanced. Bands like Watchtower and Fate's Warning are doing that kind of stuff. They're not really thrash. A lot of bands are getting more intricate, like the last Destruction album."

**I think technicality is the next best thing to the Brady Bunch.

"Oh my gosh--yes! I think that's a really true statement."

**What kind of food do you guys cook?

"Ah...cook? We don't. We've been here since September and we've used our stove once. I think it was to bake a Stromboli, and that was for about 15 minutes. We like those Roman Noodles and usually eat peanut butter products. Peanut butter is a good source of protein.

"We try to watch our chocolate and stuff like that. We eat a lot of salads. That's about it. Sometimes people bake us pies, cakes, and stuff, which is nice. We like to stock up on leftovers during the holidays. We have a microwave, which is cool."

**What kind of church do you go to? How do they feel about you guys and support you?

"Joey and I both go to a Lutheran church, which is called Lutheran, but they don't really follow a Lutheran plan or doctrine to its fullest extent. I like that, because we're not into the religious scene at all, you know.

"We have Bible studies at the church. A lot of the people there are very musical. It's mostly classical. I even went up and played an offertory with the classical guitar. They're very receptive to music. I've gone there since the band started. When the band took off they had a write up about the band in this little newspaper that's distributed throughout the church. They got a good idea of what the band's all about. They're very supportive of us.

"Dave, the other guitarist, goes to a church where the pastor totally backs us up. We get a lot of prayer when we're going on tour and stuff like that. They get a lot of prayer chains going for us. So, there's definitely a lot of support for us. It's really neat. We're really thankful for that.

"It's weird, cuz it's like, our church is basically...you know, there's nobody there that is my age. They are either extremely young or extremely old. They don't like the music, but they really understand what's going on.

"They like the violin stuff, which reminds me: there's gonna be some really, really weird stuff on the second album. That's all I'm allowed to say."

**You're under oath by the F.B.I. or something?

"Yeah. You know, it's gonna be very intense. People thought Extraction was weird."

**That was a pretty wild design on the album cover too.

"Yeah. That was kind of a rush job, and, you know, we knew the concept and stuff like that, but we kinda came up with it a little late.

"The second album is gonna be very bizarre, as far as that's concerned. I don't know if people are gonna understand anything about it, simply because there is really no concept in mind. The title is gonna speak for itself.

"There's all this stuff out there where people go, 'Oh, this album cover...What does this mean?' People are starting to judge bands now by the darkness of their album cover, before they even read the lyrics or anything like that. Before they even get to the important stuff.

"I think we're gonna flip people, which is what we want to do. It's gonna be very intense, simply because we are insane now"

**Uh, huh.

"We were kinda livin' on the edge before, but now we're kind of over the edge."

**What brought you over the edge?

"Ah, let me think...Certain kinds of odors...from, like, driving around in the country

and stuff. Certain road conditions. Driving for the last few months. The tire wear on our trucks."

**If some people out there wanted to send you some pies or something through the mail, what address should they send it to?

"This address: 1251 Colebrook Road, Apartment #2, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042. They can address that to Joey, or Kurt, or Believer. We really like creme pies. Like chocolate creme and Pistachio pudding pie."

**My mom sent my dad some home-made peanut brittle in Vietnam when he was in Vietnam. He said when he got it, it was like one big mass of peanut brittle.

"That'd be cool. That'd be great. Peanut brittle...that's awesome. Any peanut butter products also."

**Do you want to discuss any of the lyrics on your album, *Extraction From Mortality*?

"We got the lyrical content, of course, all from scripture. We feel it's real important to have a scriptural backing, cuz the Truth helps people. We wanted to make it a conceptual album, you know, meaning extraction from death and all this stuff.

"A lot of the songs are based on that, like *Tormented*. It's basically from Psalms and it talks about suffering for being a Christian. It's like, if you accept Christ into your heart, people are gonna be cutting you up. They're gonna be out to get ya. It's like certain shows that we've played. If we had mentioned Christ or anything like that, they are cussin' at us and flippin' us off.

"It's great, though. We love that, you know, because it means that they heard it. It means they're responding.

"*Tormented* talks about the mental torment that a lot of us go through in everyday life. The thing is...He went through it too. He went through it probably worse than any of us ever will. And He definitely understands.

"Then there's the song *Unite*, which is about Christians uniting. There's *Blemished Sacrifices*, about suicide being the terminal lie, and stuff like that."

**It's cool that you got LP's pressed up of that. Will the next album be on vinyl?

"I think we're gonna bag vinyl on the next one. It's just gonna be cassettes and CD's. But, we are gonna do a video for the second album. It should be cool. We're thinkin' about getting some live footage from Cornerstone and stuff."

Believer has been getting some good secular radio airplay. "Especially on the college radio stations," says Kurt. "We've been on the 'Top Five' lists with bands like Kreator on the college stations that are into thrash.

"Z-Rock, that satellite metal radio show, sometimes plays three or four of our songs in a row. We were nominated as one of the best bands out this year on there."

**Praise God!

"Yeah, it's great. The Lord's really puttin' us out there in the secular world. A lot of the dates we're playin' are in secular clubs and stuff. I guess the Lord feels we're ready to get out there."

**What kind of opposition do you get?

"We come out and play three tunes, back to back...just shred-din'. There's a pit right away, and bodies slammin', and after that we usually explain certain songs.

"We're not up there to save anybody. A lot of times we explain a tune and, like I said, we get cussed at and flipped off, people yellin' at us, you know, and all that stuff. But then as soon as we start playin' the next tune, they're back in the pit.

"After the last song we always say, 'Look, we're gonna be here after the show. Come on up and talk to us. We hang out and answer questions, you know, about what we believe in, anything like that. Please, come and talk to us.' That's basically what we do.

"A lot of the kids do stay after the show. Salvation usually isn't gonna happen there. Usually it's gonna happen when they're in bed thinkin' about what we said.

"The attitude at a thrash show is really hardcore. I mean, it's really tough to break through. The only one who can is the Lord. We don't sit there and try to break their attitudes or anything. We can't. So, it's basically up to God, when to break 'em."

**You guys are helping out on the *Sacrament* album, aren't you?

"Yeah. Joey and I are going to be producing that, along with Doug Mann. We're going to be doing that in the same studio we recorded our album at. It's not going to sound anything like ours, you know, cuz they're a lot heavier band. They're not as fast. They're more into the 'Death Metal' thing. They're very technical. The lead guitarist is phenomenal. He's great. They're all great guys and right-on Christians. We've played a couple of shows with 'em. I think their album is going to blow people away."

The guys in Believer have good jobs at home, where they can go out on the road for a couple weeks and return to the job. Kurt does food-prep, Joey works on electrical motors, Dave works at a trucking company, and Wyatt does construction-type work.

**What if someone is reading this and they feel like committing suicide...What would you like to say to 'em?

"Well, we begin with: Suicide is not an answer. I mean, you are going to go to hell, okay? Joey was goin' through a spell where he was in a psych-ward of the hospital and going through a lot of rough times. He actually woke up one morning and thought about killing himself. It was



just, like, in him. This really scared him. That's when he sought help.

"He went through the rough times and he's very glad he didn't kill himself. He can really relate to people going through that. He talks about it, and ya know, the Lord is the only answer to that.

"There might be people who don't like you or whatever. You may think that your parents don't love you, and that no one in the world loves you...But, the thing is, there's a love that's greater than all that. That comes from Jesus Christ.

"This guy loved you so much that He gave His life for you. He sat there and went through all the mental torment that you can't possibly imagine, and He got these stakes driven through His body, and He was totally covered with blood, and endured all the pain.

"He did that for all of us, not just for the band Believer, but for everyone. He loved us so much that He did that for us.

"It's like...you taking your own life is like taking something away that the Lord can use, ya know? It's like the Lord could use you in some way. You've just gotta give your life over to Him.

"And it's like, you know, you don't wanna waste your life, man...cuz, I mean, just being a servant for the Lord is just the greatest feeling. Suicide is just not...as you can imagine, it could make things a lot worse."

**Well, how about that for a Believer interview?

"Cool. I'm into it, if you're into it."

**I'm into it.

"That's cool. Ya gotta make it real weird, man."

(I think it's pretty darn weird as it is.) What's really strange is: Believer opened up for themselves in a recent Florida gig. They wore their clothes backwards, had their hair in pony-tails, and went out as "Confused Minds" to play a small set. Wow! HM



The Musician's Quilt

ANSWERING THE CALL

By Jim Erdman (Xalt)

It is an amazing feeling when you find you've come full circle in an area of your life or ministry. It seems that only yesterday I was asking the same question that is now often asked of me!

"How can I be sure I am called to music ministry?"

This is now the number one question I am asked by younger, and even older, Christian musicians, who feel the need to enter the ministry on a full-time basis. Before I address the issue of confirming a genuine call from the Lord, let's look at three reasons why not to enter the ministry. I find these reasons to be the motivation to over half of those who ask this question.

Reason #1: Talent

I will say, that of the three, this is most often the motivation for entering music ministry. "I just feel that, since God has given me this talent, I have to use it." This is true, but only to a point! Yes, God has given all of us many different talents and abilities and expects us to take full advantage of, develop, and grow in them; however, this never constitutes the sole reason or purpose for entering any ministry. Talent without obedience to God's perfect will can only lead to failure. Ministry is more than ability. It is God working through an obedient heart. He can give talent to anyone, but it is the heart God truly uses.

"As musicians, we tend to spend great amounts of time developing our craft,

writing and rehearsing, creating our own sound; and rightly so! But ministry born solely from talent is not ministry at all. We must remember that God is the author of our talent, and time with Him is time well spent. Ministry is an overflow of our personal relationship with God. Develop this first, and your gift will make room for you.

Reason #2: Circumstance

This often leads to a confirmation of a genuine calling, but can be misunderstood as well. We should always pray carefully and specifically when faced with circumstance.

A close friend of mine experienced nothing but failure in his music ministry, because he trusted events and occurrences instead of seeking the perfect direction of God. This friend was offered a position in a well-known ministry as part of their band. "This has got to be of God," he said to me. He never really spent time in prayer about it, but felt that God had expressed His will in him through this event. Two weeks later, after taking the position, he returned home, and today he is out of the ministry.

Circumstances, such as being asked to join a band, doesn't mean that is where God wants you to be, or that it is His will for your life. We must examine things carefully and seek out the perfect will of God, being patient enough to wait for His clear calling.

Reason #3: Need

Need can never be the sole motivation for entering any type of ministry. This seems a cold and callous thing to say, but it is true. Jesus said, "Ask the Lord of the

harvest, therefore to send workers into His harvest field." Jesus is saying to ask God to send out the workers that He will send.

Even though India is one of the largest mission fields in the world, with many hurting and starving people, I am not called to be a missionary to India. It is not God's plan for me. The need is there, but it is not for me to become a worker in India, unless God Himself appoints me. Much in the same way, we need to remember that, just because thousands of headbangers are lost in their sins, not every Christian guitar player needs to start a heavy metal band. Our calling to ministry is deeper than need. It is the result of God's wisdom and our obedience to it. God has a purpose for everyone, but it is by no means the same.

We have seen three reasons why not to enter the ministry of music. Now let's look at how we can clearly discern God's will for our lives.

First, we need to understand that all spiritual principles can be found in the Scriptures. The Bible is God's all-purpose and general will.

Secondly, we need to give much time to prayer and humbly seek the Lord's will, putting aside our own thoughts and plans.

When we spend time alone with God, it is then that we are truly open for Him to reveal His blueprint for our lives.

The third step in discerning God's will for us is to seek out confirmations. After we have spent time in the study of God's Word and have prayed earnestly, we will begin to hear from God. But, in order to be sure of His will and not our own, we must seek out a few confirmations. God will always confirm His will--without fail!

When I was praying before I went into full-time ministry, I felt I had heard clearly from the Lord, but desired confirmation. Not even a day went by before my wife said bluntly, "God has told me it's time." Later that evening, I met with my pastor, who shared the same confirmation. I was studying the Word the same night, and it came out from the Scriptures.

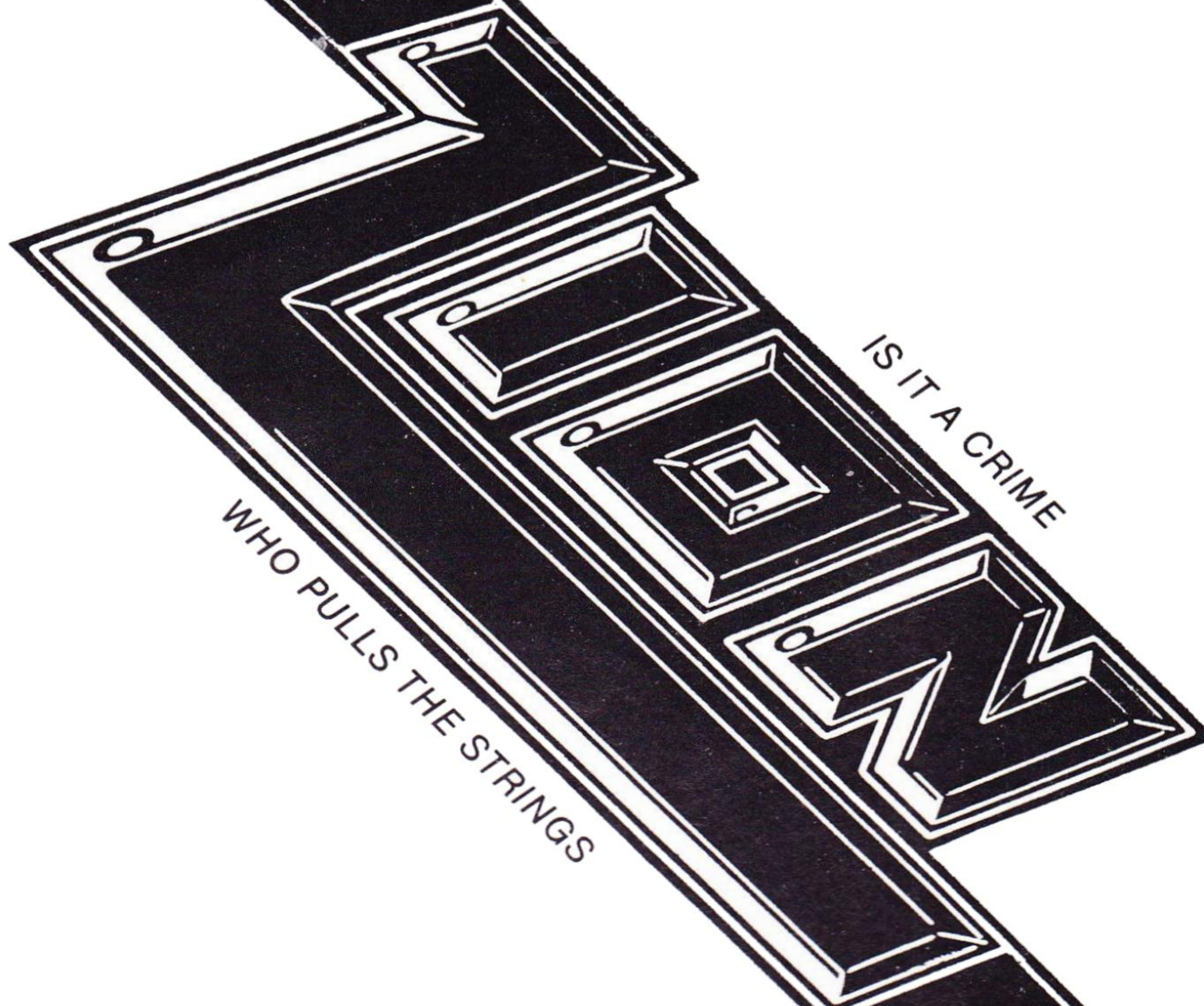
So, He confirmed through the Word and through the council of reasonable, spiritual people. Remember to be patient. Not every confirmation comes in one day. God is in no hurry. He is always in control.

In summary, we know that **TALENT, CIRCUMSTANCE, and NEED** can never be the sole motivation for ministry. We have two wills we can follow: Our will, or God's perfect will. We find it through: Scriptures, prayer, and confirmation.

Jesus is calling His workers. If it is music ministry you feel led to be involved in, then please keep these things in mind. God bless you.

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ROCKIN' WITH DRIVER

By Doug Van Pelt



DRIVER (L-R: Ray Z, Greg Shultz, Rob Rock, Reynold Carlson, Emil Lech-Brando.)

Well, sit back, and relax. Here's the Heaven's Metal with Rob Rock of Driver.

****I love the music, man. It's my favorite kind of music and I think it just kills. So, congratulations on a job well done so far.**

"Thanks."

****Your lyrics to songs like I'm A Warrior and Hearts On Fire are pretty upfront. What are your "spiritual goals" with Driver? What do you hope to accomplish?**

"My spiritual goals with Driver...hmmm. I just want to be able to talk to kids, one-on-one. You know, I really don't want to try to make the music or the record be the big "Christian banner" thing.

"When you say, 'This is a Christian band,' you turn off people."

****Right.**

"I wanna go out there and rock with these kids, and get close to them and talk to them as if I was talking to them face-to-face.

"You know, if you were to speak to someone face-to-face, you wouldn't actually be preachin' to 'em. I don't want to be preaching, but I wanna be real. I wanna be acceptable to 'em. I want them to really like the band and the music enough so they say, 'You know, what is this band about? What actually are they singin' about, and what are they into?'"

"There's always the kids that go the extra mile, that call up the fan club, or somehow get more information on the band than anybody else. Those are the ones that you can really communicate to. You know how kids are: They look up to and idolize their rock stars. If their rock stars are into Christ, I hope they'll get into Christ too."

****Do you have any essential messages that you have to get out--that burn in your heart--that you want to communicate?**

"Not really. I just wanna say that it's cool to love Christ, and that it's not, you know, the big, 'untouchable institution'...that if you try to get in touch with it, you're not cool with your friends.

"I remember when I was a kid that, if you thought of the Christian kid goin' to church, there he was in his three-piece suit with mom and dad and his hair cut short and nicely combed. You know, the Easter Sunday routine.

"I don't think that Jesus has anything to do with that. I think He's gotta be real. I don't think it has to be a big facade. That's why I believe that rock 'n' roll can be used as a medium to reach these kids.

"I just wanna be real, be myself. When rock bands sing about drinkin', partyin',

and goin' out with chicks, I think that's the stuff on their hearts. What's on their hearts and minds comes out of their mouths, you know. So, when I write songs, I just try to write real, and what's on my heart comes out.

"Like **Hearts On Fire**. That song is basically about a struggle with the Christian walk. You wanna serve Christ, but you don't. You're livin' on the run from the Lord, basically. You've thought of the conflict between good and evil, between 'what I should do and what I don't do', you know? It's got a lot of warnings in it. I've lived a lot of my life that way.

"I grew up in a Christian home, and I was lucky to have Christian parents, but I think my own personal ambitions and greed for success in rock 'n' roll got in the way. I just put all that (the Lord) aside for a long time, and ignored it."

**What brought you to the Lord again?

"I think what brought me back was the way this **Project Driver** thing didn't work out. I was living in Connecticut; doing the club scene. I put five years into this band, which went from just playing weekends to being on top of the circuit in seven states. We were really happenin', but I wasn't satisfied there, because, you know, one set was original, and two sets were covers; and you could tell the people were there for the band more than the cover tunes. But then the **Driver** opportunity came along and I flew out there and auditioned for it.

"It was like, 'Wow!'...you know, with Rudy Sarzo and Tommy Aldridge...'I'm finally gonna make it. All these years are gonna pay off.' Just after we did the album and stuff, we couldn't get a major release on it, so we went with the independent release on **Shrapnel Records**.

"As you know, Rudy and Tommy went on to **Whitesnake** and stuff. It was like a broken dream. I just sat back and said, 'What am I doing out here? Man, I just left something that took so long to build up, to come out here for the long shot, thinking I made it, and then I'm left in L.A. with nothing.' I had no money. I had spent all I'd ever saved flying back and forth.

"I was thinking that it was all done, but the Lord had other plans. He wanted to break me. After that I joined the **Joshua** band, which to me was like a bee to honey or something. With the Christians in that band, I just grew right back into where I was brought up. I never realized I could actually serve the Lord, somehow, through this love for music that He's given me.

"After the **Joshua** thing split, I decided that I wanted to play heavier music. This music isn't that much more heavy than **Joshua**, but it's got more of a heavy guitar, whereas **Joshua's** guitar is real melodic--sort of subdued, intricate stuff.

"More of a songwriting thing went into **Joshua**. It was melody everywhere. I just felt like I wanted to get back to what I feel just comes naturally, instead of thinking so hard

about the music, like you can't think without melodic. I just want to think from my heart.

"What comes natural is the way I think it should be. I've agonized for three or four years now over what's melodic and what's not melodic; what's a hit song, and what's not a hit song. I just look at all the bands out there, and I just don't think it has anything to do with it. I think you've gotta be yourself.

"If people like it, they'll like it. If they don't like it, you got just as much a shot as if you try and bang your head against a wall and maybe hit something."

It seems that you kind've left **Joshua on the eve of almost a sure stardom. Why the split?

"Well, uh...you want to get real personal, don't ya?"

**Well, uh...(laughter)

"Let me put it to you as simple as I can. I didn't think it was the right position for me. It took a lot of time...It took almost a year of soul-searching with the Lord. I felt He led me to start on my own again. When I joined the band, it was supposed to be, and it was always talked to be, a 'band' project and a 'band' thing. But, in reality, it was always **Joshua's** band and **Joshua's** songs. **Joshua's** going to do everything that concerns the band and be the band. I was flustered by that, you know? I didn't want to spend the rest of my life, or career, the next 10 years dealing with that frustration. I didn't think it was fair to myself or fair to **Joshua** and the other guys.

"We had six months over there together as a band. There's basically nothing to do but really find out what the people are like in your band. Being on the road for 4 years back East, I felt that you should get along and have common respect for one another.

"It's **Joshua's** band and, you know, I hope the Lord blesses it. I mean, the Lord blessed me through **Joshua**. He was a very strong influence on helping me get back on track with the Lord. I thank the Lord for that."

"I'm trying to keep it down on a street level...to where it's relatable and it doesn't get trampled on."

Well, sometimes these things happen. It looks like, hopefully the Lord is gonna use the whole thing. It looks like maybe all three bands from the **Joshua machine: **Shout**, **Driver**, and **Joshua**; are gonna go. I hope that all three bands will be doing what the Lord wants them to do, and go places.

"Yeah, I hope so."

**Well, getting back to the current lineup, do you guys play live a lot?

"We've done probably six shows, or showcases. We've done **The Troubadour**, **The Whiskey**, **The Palace**, a couple at **Joe's Garage**. For now, we're basically gonna put a halt on playin' out. I think we're in a position where we either have to say, 'Yes, we're gonna break the L.A. club scene,' and put out the time, energy, and money to try and play every month and promote 'em and go that route; or stop and say, 'Hey, this is what we're gonna do: Let's stop before we do that and write another 20 or 30 songs.

"You just can't seem to write as good quality songs if you're spending energy thinking about upcoming live shows.

"I've been lucky to get four albums out in four years in L.A. It's funny, because before that I never got an album out, but I played out every night. Since I've come out to L.A., it's like I've been through recording school or something.

"Now I'm able to put 'em both together and put out an album and get on tour."

**Has any A&R people reacted to your lyrics? Has anyone questioned 'em or picked up anything you're saying as far as Christianity?

"No. They haven't come out at all and said, 'This is Christian, man.' which is what we're really trying to achieve with the lyrics. It's kind of hard to not come across as preaching, you know, and still have some kind of message. It is possible, and I'm trying to keep it down on that street level, to where it's relatable and doesn't get trampled on.

"In a way, you don't want to throw your pearls before swine. The kids that really want to know, the ones that really want to talk to you face-to-face, they'll be sent literature from the fan club, right into their home.

"We don't want to be herded, or put in a little white metal section in the back of a rock magazine. So often Christian bands get totally shoved in the corner. I'm really hoping that the Lord will use us in more of a subtle way."

**I think there's definitely room for this in the body. I think you'll be good entertainment for Christians, and edifying too, cause there'll be truth in there, so I think you'll create a Christian following who pick up on it.

"Yeah, I hope so. I'm not sure if I'm making myself clear or not, but I really think it's important to write from the heart, not from the mind. I mean, I've agonized over lyrics before. 'Well, what's somebody going to think of that?' or 'Are they going to take this the wrong way?' I just realized, 'That isn't being creative. That's being paranoid or something.

"It's gotta be me. I don't want to sit and worry about what the Christian magazine, or a church is going to say about it. I'm not going to sit there and worry about what a heavy metal journalist is going to say about it. It's gotta be true to me and true to the Lord. That's all it comes down to, ultimately. He's the only One you gotta worry about."



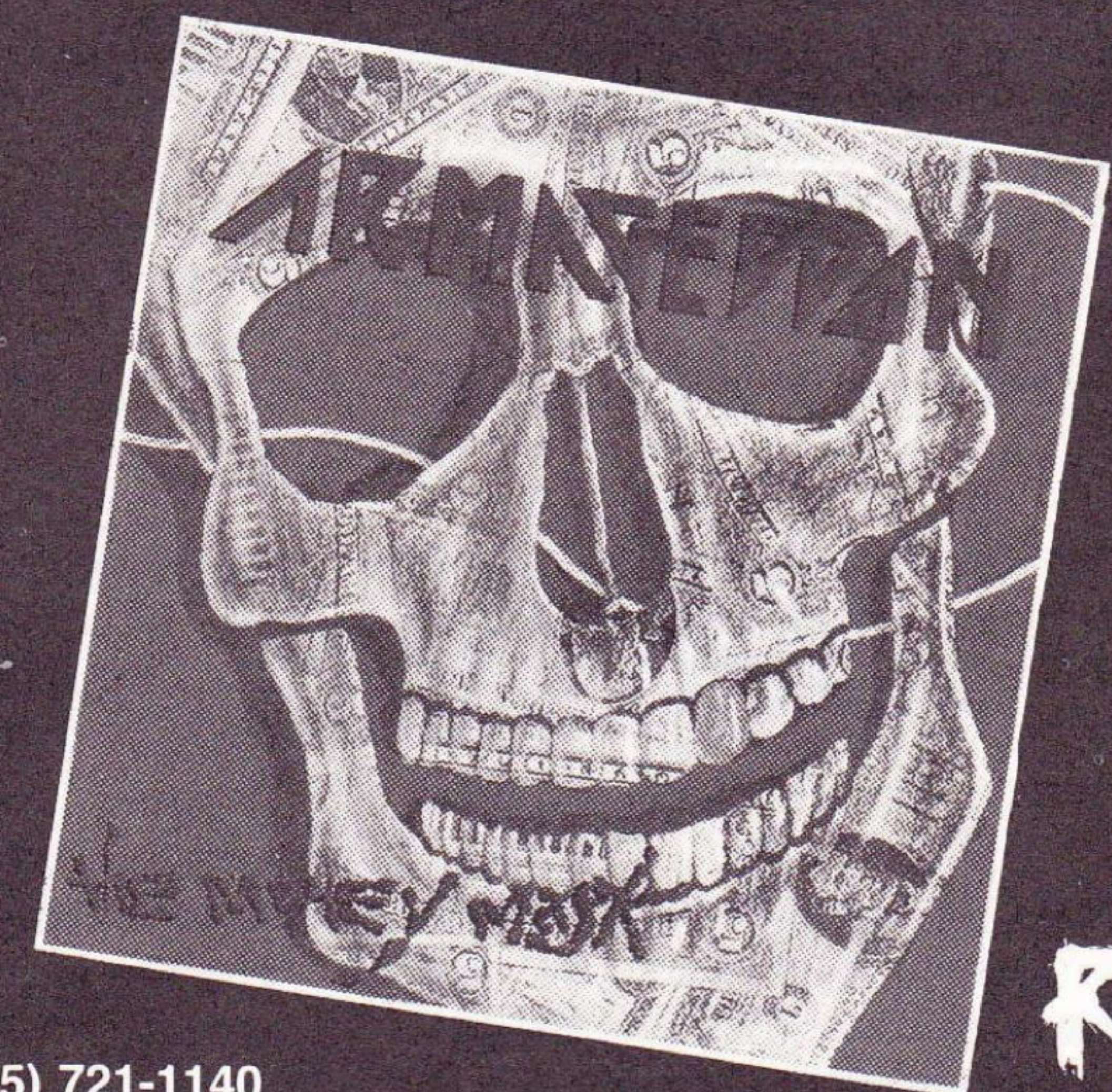
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**What was the Angelica project like?

"That was great, man, working with Dennis Cameron...and I got to work with Ken Tamplin again. I really had a blast singing the lyrics. They were pretty blatant.

"Talk about melody...Ken really comes up with some stuff. It was really a joy to work with him on that. I haven't really worked with him much since he left Joshua. One day he called up and said, 'You wanna work on this record?' At the time, I was still putting together this Driver band. So, I said, 'Sure.'"

**How long did you work on it?

"I worked on it (pause, then laughter) 18 hours. Three days at six hours a day. I went down there and belted it out. Ken's the kind of guy that always says, 'Ah, no...you can sing that one better. You can sing it higher...' It was pretty wild. He had me singin' way up there. Yeah, I liked doin' that."

**Would you recommend that Christians go out and buy the Project Driver album you did with Sarzo, Aldridge, and those guys?

"No, not if they're searching for Christian meaning in it. I'm sorry to say that Christ really wasn't on my mind at that time. Working with that band was great. We worked on everything together. I wrote most of the

lyrics. Rudy Sarzo had a big hand in the lyrics too."

**I heard from Jeff Fenholt that Rudy got saved.

"Yeah, well, I often wondered about Rudy, 'cause you know, he was reading his Bible everyday and stuff."

**What else have you played on?

"I did an EP with Impelliteri on Relativity Records. He was in my band back East, Vice. He came out to L.A. before I did, and I had just gotten there. I was like a stranger in a strange land at the time, and he wanted to record some stuff to get a deal, so I sang with him.

"Shortly after I heard the Joshua material and, you know, Christ was there and I kind of ran to that, man. I bolted. I thought, 'I don't want to go through the same mill again,' you know, 'I wanna get back with Christ. That's where I should be.' Then I went and joined Joshua. About two and a half years later we finally did the album."

**Are you happy with how Intense Defense came out?

"Yeah, I'm happy with the record. I'm not happy with the route it took to make the record, but, you know, it's out of your hands. I mean, whatever the Lord deals you...but, at least in Germany I really grew

strong in the Word, because there was nothing else to do there."

**What is your favorite kind of music?

"I like a lot of different types of rock. It started forming back when I was a drummer. I was a drummer for 10 years, and we were playing all the Styx and Kansas stuff. When I went out front as a singer, I was influenced by people like Dio."

**How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for ya?

"We need prayer for staff. You know, I'm talking about management, and a record company that believes in us. There's a lot of things a band needs besides a manager: a record company, a publisher, the right merchandising, and you need a tour.

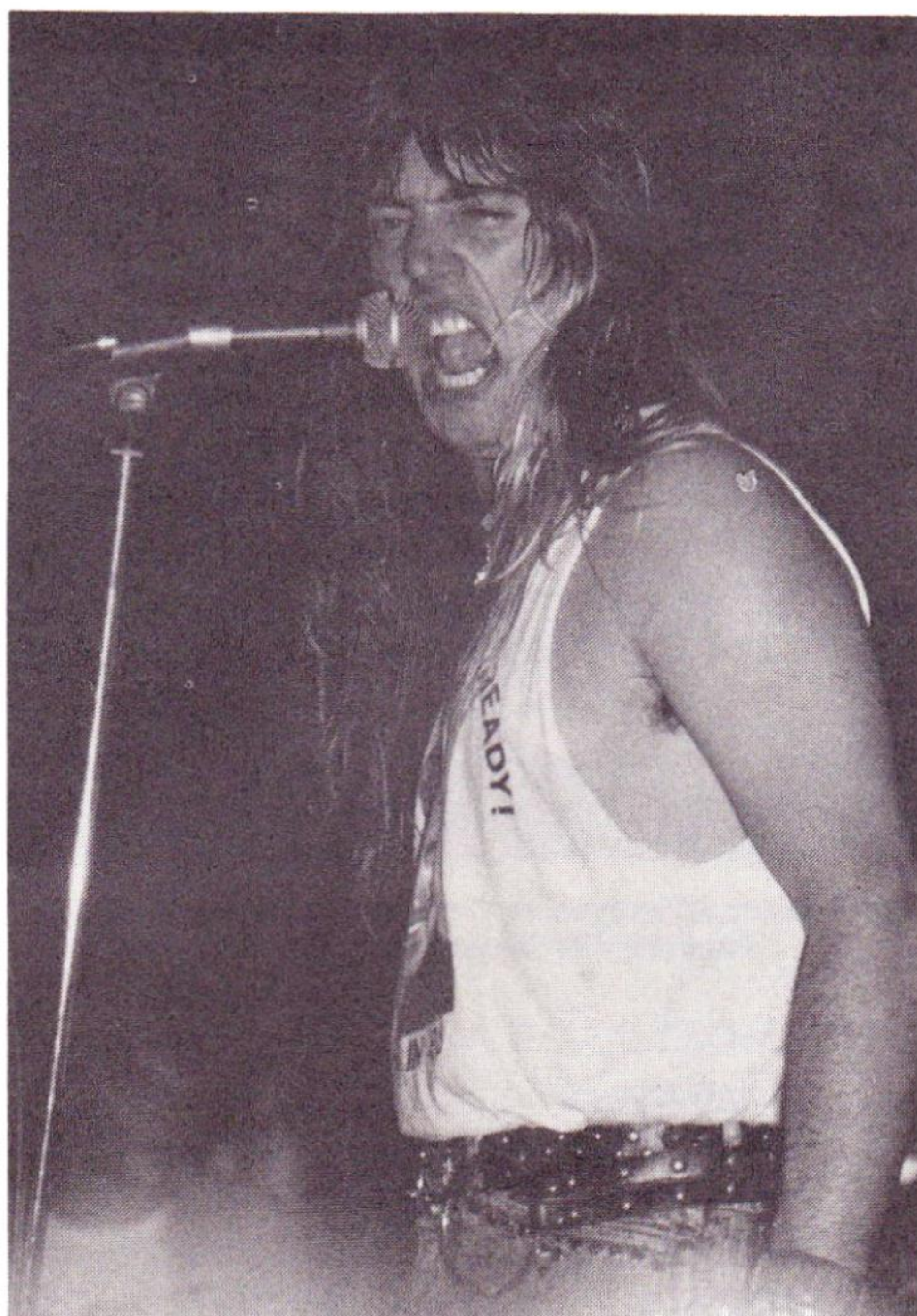
"You need someone who believes in you, and puts up the money for an album too. We just pray that the Lord willingly blesses us with those people. I think we really need prayer and strength to stay focused."

**I really hope something happens for ya. I think your music is really hot. I'd hate to see music like that ignored.

"Well thank you. That's great." Be on the lookout in the mainstream market someday (hopefully soon) for Driver's music. HM

1989 READER'S POLL RESULTS

Mike Lee & Barren Cross swept the polls again this year.
Photo by Michael Joray



This year's reader's poll was fun, as usual, yet offered a special brain-straining "Favorites Of The 1980's" category. Over 180 readers responded, the first 30 of which received a free copy of Bloodgood's "Out Of The Darkness" cassette (Compliments Intense/Frontline Records). Included after the reader's choices are a few selections in various categories by people you may recognize. Well, enough of this, let's go! Here's to an even greater decade ahead of us!

The Favorites of 1989

A) FAVORITE ALBUM

- 1) "State Of Control"/Barren Cross
- 2) "Deliverance"/Deliverance
- 3) "Gretchen Goes To Nebraska"/King's X
- 4) "Triumphant Return"/Whitecross
- 5) "Extraction From Mortality"/Believer

B) FAVORITE LIVE BAND

- 1) Barren Cross
- 2) Bloodgood
- 3) tie: Whitecross/Stryper
- 4) tie: Guardian/Bride
- 5) tie: Sacred Warrior/Vengeance

C) FAVORITE BASSIST

- 1) Jim LaVerde (BC)
- 2) Michael Bloodgood
- 3) Doug Pinnick (King's X)
- 4) Tim Gaines (Stryper)
- 5) Rick Cua

D) FAVORITE SINGER

- 1) Mike Lee (BC)
- 2) Dale Thompson (Bride)
- 3) Les Carlsen (Bloodgood)
- 4) Michael Sweet (Stryper)

E) FAVORITE DRUMMER

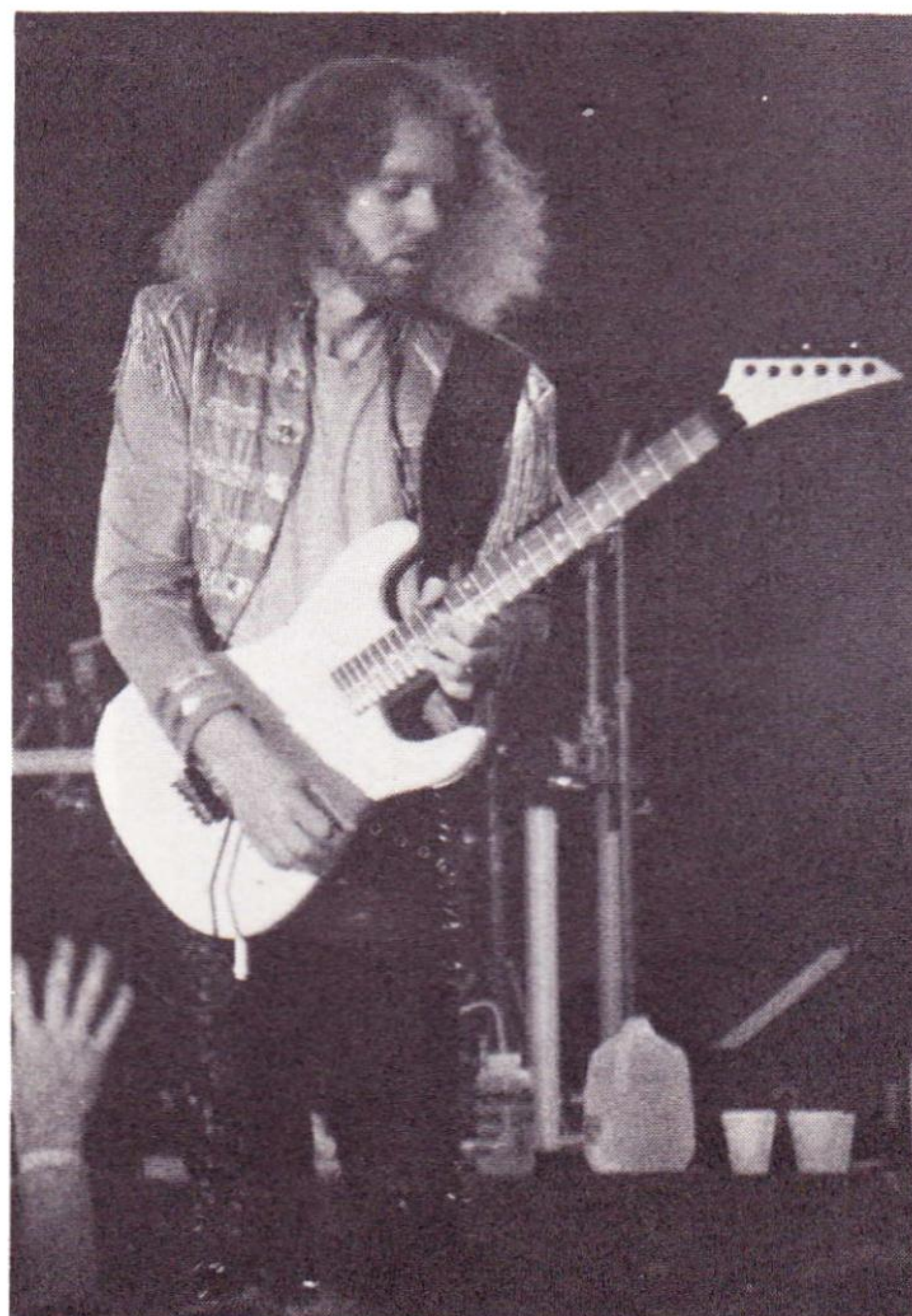
- 1) Tony Velasquez (Sacred Warrior)
- 2) Robert Sweet (Stryper)
- 3) Steve Whitaker (BC)
- 4) Kevin Whistler (Bloodgood)
- 5) Joey Daub (Believer)

F) FAVORITE GUITARIST

- 1) Rex Carroll (Whitecross)
- 2) Dennis Cameron (Angelica)
- 3) Tony Palacios (Guardian)
- 4) Ray Parris (BC)
- 5) Ken Tamplin (Shout)

G) FAVORITE ALBUM COVER

- 1) "Gretchen Goes..."
- 2) "Master's Command"/Sacred Warrior
- 3) "Extraction From Mortality"



Rex Carroll brings home the 'Heaven's Metal Guitar Hero Award' for the third straight year, capturing the decade as well. (foto (c) Karen Loke)

- 4) "Silence Is Madness"/Bride
- 5) "Triumphant Return"

H) OVERALL FAVORITE BAND

- 1) Barren Cross
- 2) Bloodgood
- 3) Whitecross
- 4) Sacred Warrior
- 5) Stryper

I) FAVORITE CUSTOM/DEMO TAPE

- 1) "Shine Candy Shine"/Electrik
- 2) "Warp Speed"/Jeff Scheetz
- 3) "Recon"/Recon
- 4) "Totally Possessed"/Thresher
- 5) "Chosen Stranger"/Chosen Stranger

J) FAVORITE UNSIGNED BAND

- 1) Paradox
- 2) Ransom
- 3) Emerald

K) HEAVIEST BAND

- 1) Vengeance
- 2) Believer
- 3) Deliverance
- 4) Barren Cross
- 5) tie: Bride/X-Sinner

L) FAVORITE SONG

- 1) "Stage Of Intensity"/BC
- 2) "Out Of Time"/BC
- 3) "Holy, Holy, Holy"/Sacred Warrior
- 4) tie: "2,000 Years"/BC & "Top Of The Mountain"/Bloodgood
- 5) "Living On The Edge"/X-Sinner

M) FAVORITE LYRICIST

- 1) Mike Lee
- 2) Les Carlsen/Michael Bloodgood
- 3) Roger Martinez (Vengeance)
- 4) Rex Carroll/Scott Wenzel
- 5) tie: Glenn Kaiser (REZ) & Jimmy Brown (Deliverance)

N) FAVORITE NEW BAND

- 1) X-Sinner
- 2) Angelica
- 3) Deliverance
- 4) Believer
- 5) Guardian

O) MOST LIKE TO SEE INTERVIEWED

- 1) Believer
- 2) Deliverance
- 3) X-Sinner
- 4) Angelica
- 5) Vengeance

The Favorites of the 1980's

AA) FAVORITE ALBUM

- 1) "To Hell With The Devil"/Stryper
- 2) "Soldiers Under Command"/Stryper
- 3) "Atomic Arena"/BC



Favorite New Band: X-Sinner

- 4) "Human Sacrifice"/Vengeance

5) "Detonation"/Bloodgood

BB) FAVORITE LIVE BAND

- 1) Stryper
- 2) Bloodgood
- 3) Whitecross
- 4) Barren Cross
- 5) tie: REZ & Jerusalem

CC) FAVORITE BASSIST

- 1) Jim LaVerde
- 2) Michael Bloodgood
- 3) Tim Gaines
- 4) Doug Pinnick
- 5) Rick Cua

DD) FAVORITE SINGER

- 1) Mike Lee
- 2) Michael Sweet
- 3) Scott Wenzel
- 4) Dale Thompson
- 5) Les Carlsen

HH) FAVORITE BAND

- 1) Stryper
- 2) Barren Cross
- 3) Whitecross
- 4) Bride
- 5) Bloodgood

II) FAV CUSTOM TAPE

- 1) "Babylon"/Soldier
- 2) "Ruler"/Paradox
- 3) "Power & Glory"/Paradox
- 4) "A Christian Banned"
/One Bad Pig
- 5) "Nailed"/The Crucified

JJ) HEAVIEST BAND

- 1) Vengeance
- 2) Believer
- 3) Deliverance
- 4) Barren Cross
- 5) Saint



Roger Martinez & Vengeance: Christian metal's heaviest band.
Photo by Kirk Crippen



Paradox was voted "Favorite Unsigned Band" of the decade and 1989!

EE) FAVORITE DRUMMER

- 1) Robert Sweet
- 2) Tony Velasquez
- 3) Steve Whitaker
- 4) John Perrin
- 5) tie: Joseph Galletta (Shout)
& Joe English

FF) FAVORITE GUITARIST

- 1) Rex Carrol
- 2) Oz Fox
- 3) David Zaffiro
- 4) Ray Parris
- 5) Dennis Cameron

GG) FAVORITE ALBUM COVER

- 1) "Human Sacrifice"/Vengeance
- 2) "To Hell With The Devil"/Stryper
- 3) "Detonation"/Bloodgood
- 4) "Live To Die"/Bride
- 5) "Master Of The Metal"/Messiah Prophet

KK) FAVORITE SONG

- 1) "Crucify/Messiah"/Bloodgood
- 2) "To Hell With The Devil"/Stryper
- 3) "King Of Kings"/BC
- 4) "Soldiers Under Command"/Stryper
- 5) "Makes Me Wanna Sing"/Stryper

LL) FAVORITE LYRICIST

- 1) Mike Lee & Barren Cross
- 2) Michael Sweet (Stryper)
- 3) Les Carlsen & Michael Bloodgood
- 4) Roger Martinez
- 5) Glenn Kaiser

MM) FAVORITE UNSIGNED BAND

- 1) Paradox
- 2) Soldier
- 3) Ransom
- 4) Martyr
- 5) Chosen Stranger

NN) MOST RADICAL BAND

- 1) Vengeance
- 2) One Bad Pig
- 3) Lust Control
- 4) King's X
- 5) Stryper

**OO) FAVORITE NON-METAL
INDULGENCE**

- 1) Petra
- 2) P.I.D.
- 3) Amy Grant
- 4) Steve Taylor
- 5) tie: Kim Boyce & The Swirling Eddies

GUEST PICKS:

Steve Schmutzer

FAVORITE ALBUMS OF 1989:

- 1) "Last Of The Runaways"/Giant
- 2) "Get It"/X-Sinner
- 3) "Intense Defense"/Joshua
- 4) "State Of Control"/BC
- 5) "Triumphant Return"/Whitecross

Doug Van Pelt

FAVORITE ALBUMS OF 1989:

- 1) "In Your Face"/Shout
- 2) "Deliverance"/Deliverance
- 3) "Gretchen..."/King's X
- 4) "Rage Of Angels"/R.O.A.
- 5) "First Watch"/Guardian

- B) One Bad Pig (at C-Stone '89)
- C) Doug Pinnick
- D) Rob Rock (Joshua/Angelica/Driver)
- E) Michael Elliot (Whitecross)
- F) Joshua Peraiah (Joshua)
- G) "Gretchen..."/King's X
- I) Allegiance demo
- J) Paradox
- K) Deliverance
- L) "Holy, Holy, Holy"/Sacred Warrior
- M) Steve Camp
- N) Deliverance
- O) Rush
- OO) Kerry Livgren/AD

Mike Delaney (Spring Arbor)

- A) "Lost Horizon"/Steve Scott
- B) Tonio K
- C) Michael Been (The Call)
- D) Andy Pratt
- E) Larry Evans (U2)
- F) The Edge (U2)
- G) "We Will Fight Back"/Blackhouse
- H) Steve Taylor & Some Band
- I) Unreleased 6-song 77's demo
- J) No Laughing Matter
- K) Vengeance
- L) "This Sad Music"/Steve Scott
- M) Steve Scott
- N) Veil Of Ashes
- O) Steve Scott
- AA) "Doppelganger"/Daniel Amos
- BB) Daniel Amos
- CC) Michael Been
- DD) Andy Pratt
- EE) Larry Evans
- FF) The Edge
- GG) "No Compromise"/Keith Green
- HH) Daniel Amos
- II) "LaVoix Celeste"
- JJ) Daniel Amos/DA/Da/Swirling Eddies
- KK) "True Confession"/Mark Heard
- LL) Mark Heard
- MM) No Laughing Matter
- NN) The Warning
- OO) The Wauhobs

Michael Bloodgood

- A) "Gretchen..." /King's X
- B) One Bad Pig
- C) Jim LaVerde
- D) Doug Pinnick
- E) Jeff Crandall (The Altar Boys)
- F) Paul Jackson (Bloodgood)
- G) "Innocent Blood"/REZ
- H) King's X
- I) "Warp Speed"/Jeff Scheetz
- J) Paragon
- K) Vengeance
- L) "Over My Head"/King's X
- M) Terry Taylor (Swirling Eddies)
- N) X-Sinner
- O) Midnight Oil
- AA) "Medals"/Russ Taff
- BB) Mylon & Broken Heart
- CC) Tim Chandler (DA, etc.)
- DD) Les Carlsen
- EE) Mark Welling
- FF) Eric Turner (Darrell Mansfield)
- GG) "Detonation"
- HH) Stryper
- II) Zion demo
- JJ) Philadelphia
- KK) "Over My Head"/King's X
- LL) Steve Taylor
- MM) Tempest (original Tempest)
- NN) Lust Control
- OO) Amy Grant

David Johnson (White Throne)

- A) "Innocent Blood"
- B) Breakfast With Amy
- C) Warren Harris (orig. Tempest)
- D) David Campanaro (First Strike)
- E) John Heald (Armada)
- F) Phil Castillo

- G) "Mystical Thieves"/Lightforce
- H) The Cry
- I) "What It Means To Be"/The Cry
- J) First Strike
- K) Vengeance
- L) "What It Means To Be"/The Cry
- M) Roger Martinez
- N) The Crucified
- O) Jimmy Swaggart

Brent Hershey (Notebored)

- A) "Let The Day Begin"/The Call
- B) The Call
- AA) "Atomic Arena"/BC
- BB) Barren Cross
- LL) Pinnick/Tabor/Gaskill (King's X)
- NN) Stryper
- OO) The Dirty Dozen Brass Band

HM

CONCERT DATES

Finally, Christian metal is growing to a point to where there are more bands on the road. Most all of 'em are starving to do it, so please lift 'em up in prayer. Here's some dates available at press time. Some of the dates have corresponding phone numbers to call for further information. If there's not a number, call the local Christian bookstores and radio stations for info.

X-SINNER

- 6/15 Carol Springs FL (305) 344-9777
- 6/16 Carol Springs FL " "
- 6/21 Winchester VA (203) 667-9400
- 6/22 Marion OH (614) 726-2796
- 6/23 Bedford IN (812) 275-1919
- 6/25 Greenville IL (618) 664-3519
- 6/26 Fort Wayne IN (219) 426-8379
- 6/30 Minneapolis MN (612) 379-2858
- 6/31 or 7/1 Duluth MN (218) 722-0034
- 7/3 Winnipeg, Canada
- 7/6 Sellersville PA (215) 257-7727
- 7/7 Columbus OH (614) 861-7621

BARREN CROSS

- 5/4 Carol Springs FL (305) 344-9777
- 5/5 Carol Springs FL " "

REZ

- 4/20 Melbourne, Australia (312) 989-6331
- 4/21 Sydney, Australia " "
- 4/22 Adelaide, Australia " "
- 4/25 Brisbane, Australia " "
- 4/27 Christchurch, New Zealand " "
- 4/28 Auckland, New Zealand " "

ONE BAD PIG

- 4/22 Wichita KS
- 5/17 Bedford IN (812) 275-1919
- 5/18 Marion OH (614) 726-2796
- 5/19 Columbus OH (614) 861-7621
- 6/29 Minneapolis MN (612) 379-2858
- 7/28 Albuquerque NM (505) 292-9100

DELIVERANCE

- 4/6 Wheeling WV (304) 233-3783
- 4/7 Bedford IN (812) 275-1919
- 4/10 & 4/11 Duluth MN (218) 722-0034
- 4/12 Wisconsin Rpd WI (715) 423-2989
- 4/13 Minneapolis MN (612) 379-2858
- 4/14 Minneapolis MN (612) 379-2858
- 4/20 Coral Springs FL (305) 344-9777
- 4/21 Coral Springs FL (305) 344-9777

- 4/24 Largo FL (813) 596-9204
- 6/22 Newbury OH (216) 564-7486
- 6/23 Columbus OH (614) 861-7621
- 8/?? Williamsville NY (716) 689-0614

SFC

- 4/27 Knott's Berry (CA) (408) 243-5641
- 6/28 Creation Festival (717) 293-4254
- 6/30 Columbus OH (614) 861-7621
- 7/?? Minneapolis MN (612) 882-6580
- 8/9 Yucca Valley CA

IDLE CURE

- 4/21 Houghton NY
- 4/27 Knott's Berry (CA)
- 5/12 Six Flags (IL)

WHITECROSS

- Tiffin OH
- 4/13 Sellersville PA
- 4/14 Lancaster PA (717) 293-4254
- 4/24 Charleston SC (803) 797-2288
- 4/27 Knoxville TN (615) 986-8125
- 4/28 Ichthus KY (606) 858-3001
- 5/4 Millersville MD (301) 553-0828
- 5/5 Spartanburg NC (803) 582-4673
- 5/8 Bedford IN (812) 275-1919
- 5/10 Fort Wayne IN (219) 426-8379
- 5/11 Dayton OH (513) 299-2889
- 5/12 Carbondale IL (618) 549-4734
- 5/14 Allentown PA (215) 398-1120
- 5/15 Rochester NY (315) 926-5108
- 5/16 Utica NY (315) 733-5582
- 5/17 Kingston NY (914) 384-6348
- 5/18 Worchester MA "
- 5/19 Rocky Hill CT (203) 257-9342
- 5/20 Tarrytown NY

- 5/26 Hampton VA (804) 826-1426
- 6/7 Evansville IN (812) 425-4025
- 6/9 Reynoldsburg OH (614) 861-7621
- 6/15 Jesus 90 Fest (704) 376-4388
- 6/?? Atlantafest (404) 955-8669
- 6/28 Creation Fest (717) 293-4254
- 7/6 Sonshine Fest
- 7/7 Minneapolis MN (612) 379-2858
- 7/?? Fishnet Fest (703) 636-2961
- 8/?? Flavo Festival, Holland

CORNERSTONE LINEUP:

One Bad Pig, Believer, Whitecross, Rez, Deliverance, X-Sinner, Scattered Few, Darrell Mansfield Band, Nobody Special, Barren Cross, The Lead, The Crucified, S.F.C., Donna McElroy, Breakfast With Amy, Dave Mullen, Hoi Polloi, Mark Heard and band, Geoff Moore & The Distance, Degarmo & Key, Charlie Peacock, Margaret Becker, Larry Howard, Da/Swirling Eddies & Randy Stonehill (in one "Evening Encore"), Hard Rain, Flowers Of Power, Paul Clark, Bob Bennett, The Crossing...and maybe Holy Soldier (it's still unconfirmed...write letters to Myrrh & Cornerstone). For info on Cornerstone '90, write: 4707 N. Malden, Chicago IL 60640.



LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz



Hello Heaven's Metalists!

In this column I want to delve into developing a smooth legato style through the use of hammer-ons and pull-offs. While most players use H.O.'s and P.O.'s in their playing, they usually do so subconsciously, and do not take the time to practice them individually.

I often get asked if you should actually “pluck” the string with your left hand as you are pulling-off, or if you should simply “lift” it off. I think you have to view it as lifting off, for if you pluck the string you may pull it out of tune. The key here is accuracy!

Below are a couple of exercises (or should I say licks? I've noticed that if you show someone something and tell them it's a "Hot Lick", they'll go home and practice it until their fingers turn blue. But if you slip and inadvertently call it an exercise, they get real nervous and break out in a cold sweat!) Oh well, just a passing conjecture. Anyway...The first example is a series of ten notes played with only two pick strokes. It may seem like you are going backwards at first, but by taking it extremely slowly you will see it makes sense. Repeat it over and over until you get it up to warpspeed. Example 2 is the same lick, just showing how you can move it up and down the neck diatonically. Experiment with this, moving it to as many different scales and positions as you can.

Until next time, to paraphrase Thomas Edison: Great guitar playing is "one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."

Ex 1.

Ex 2.

Handwritten musical notation on a six-line staff. The notation includes fingerings (1-5), breath marks (P, H), and slurs. The first exercise (Ex 1) consists of two phrases. The second exercise (Ex 2) consists of two phrases. The notation is written in a cursive style.

1
2
3
4
5
6

1
2
3
4
5
6

METAL TRACKS

[illegible]

Tempest is moving to Allentown, Pennsylvania. There they will be under the spiritual covering of Ray Nenow's (Refuge owner) church.

One Bad Pig, who is now on Myrrh Records, spent the latter half of February in Nashville recording their new album--"Swine

Flew". Whiteheart member Billy Smiley again took on the production chores. The rough mix I've heard sounds very good and very fast. Expect more of the Pig's witty humor in songs like "Bowl Of Wrath", "Big Stomach"--which correlates the labor pains a woman goes through to birthing a vision that God has given,

and the title track. There's plenty of guest musicians this time around also. Of particular interest is guitarist Bob Hartman, who does the leads on "Judas Kiss". That's right...the Pig does a thrashin' cover of the old Petra hit. Another surprise is...no, it can't be--a One Bad Pig ballad? Also included is a second cover.

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CRUCIFIED, THE	Crucified (Hardcore)	☐	☐	☐
DELIVERANCE	Deliverance	☐	☐	
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ONE BAD PIG	A Christian Banned	☐	☐	
PARADOX	Ruler	☐	☐	
PARADOX	Power & Glory	☐	☐	
PETRA	Petra Means Rock	☐	☐	
REZ	Between Heaven & Hell	☐	☐	
ROSANNA'S RAIDERS	Clothed In Fire	☐	☐	☐
ROSSI BAND	Sooner Or Later	☐	☐	☐
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SHOUT	In Your Face	☐	☐	
SHOUT	It Won't Be Long	☐	☐	
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TEMPEST	Eye Of The Storm	☐	☐	☐
TEMPEST	A Coming Storm	☐	☐	☐
TESTIFY	Metal Sampler	☐	☐	
THRESHER	Totally Possessed	☐	☐	
TORN FLESH	Crux Of The Mosh	☐	☐	☐
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UNDERGROUND METAL II	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
VALOR	Fight For Your Life	☐	☐	
VENGEANCE	Once Dead	☐	☐	
VENGEANCE	Human Sacrifice	☐	☐	
WATCHMEN	Generation	☐	☐	
WATCHMEN	Fear No Evil	☐	☐	
WHITCROSS	Triumphant Return	☐	☐	☐
WHITCROSS	Hammer & Nail	☐	☐	☐
WHITCROSS	Whitcross	☐	☐	☐
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XALT	Dark War	☐	☐	
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This time it's Larry Norman's "Christmas Time" that gets the pig treatment. A couple of older Pig tunes show up here: "Thrash Against Sin", and "We Want You". There's a Cult-sounding song called "Red River". Other song titles are: "Hey Punk"; "Desperation"; "When Your Love Died" (the ballad); "See Me Sweat"; and "Altar Ego". Expect a June release.

In other Pig news: did you know that their bassist, **Streak Wheeler**, used to play in a band with Larry and Tim Melby of **Liason**.

It looks like **Paradox** may finally sign with **Intense/Frontline Records**. Their stage show has really improved. The mini-tour they did with **Sacred Warrior** really has helped them grow. Guitarist **Fernando Hernandez** is wailing away on his strats better than ever now.

Recon is signed to **Frontline**, which **George Ochoa** executively-produced. **Jimmy Brown** and **Roger Martinez** co-produced.

Shout changed their name to **Tamplin**...but wait!!! **Kenny Tamplin** led his friend **Lanny Cordola**, of **House Of Lords**, to **Jesus**, got him to join the band, replacing **Chuck King** on guitar, and decided to change their name once again. Now it's **Magdallan**.

Tourniquet's debut album on **Intense** will be produced by **Bill Metoyer**, who produced **Deliverance**, **D.R.I.**, and **Slayer**. The ex-drummer for **Trouble** is going to play on the album. Look for it in May.

Bloodgood's video of their "rock theater" performance is going to be released via **Intense**. It will be broken up into two volumes (both the video and the companion live album). Meanwhile, look for "Excellent Blood"--a compilation of several of the band's hottest tunes.

Expect the following releases in the second quarter of 1990: **Deliverance**; **Mike Stand**; **Magdallan**; **Zaffiro**; and a new edition of "Hot Metal Summer"

In other **Frontline** news (non-metal) they've signed two foreign bands: **Edin-Adahl**; and **Walk On Water**, who supposedly sounds like a cross between **Duran Duran**, **ATF**, and **The Choir**.

Zion's tour dates begin in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with **Whitecross** on April 14th. There are several other Northeast area dates planned, including April 28th in Columbus, Ohio. All tour inquiries should go to **Zion Tour** coordination at (605) 338-9841.

The Gospel Music Association has announced the following **Dove Award** Nominations: Metal Recorded Song Of The Year: "Attention Please" by **Whitecross**; "Give Me An Answer" and "In Your Face" by **Shout** (**Magdallan**); "Holy, Holy, Holy" by **Sacred Warrior**; and "This Is The Day" by **Mastedon**...Metal Album Of The Year: "First Watch" by **Guardian**; "In Your Face" by **Shout**; "It's A Jungle Out There" by **Mastedon**; "State Of Control" by **Barren Cross**; and "Triumphant Return" by **Whitecross**.

Deliverance will be recording the song "Greetings Of Death" on their next album, "Weapons Of Our Warfare". It looks like **George Ochoa** and **Jimmy Brown** will co-produce with **Bill Metoyer** mixing.

Scattered Few will have their album

produced by **Terry Taylor**.

Torn Flesh spoke at a rock music seminar at a juvenile facility in Ohio. They took a day off work and drove three hours to do it...with no financial payment. Praise God for their true servanthood.

If you're wondering why **Rikk Hart** left **Guardian**, **David Bach** told us the reason: "We toured from October 15th to December 15th without a breath, and **Rikk** decided that the road was too much for him." They are currently rehearsing for their second album, which they hope to have out in August. "Expect a more guitar-heavy album," promises **David**. The band toured Japan over Christmas, where they headlined with **Holy Soldier**, and **David Mullen**. "It was amazing to headline a foreign country and see people singing along with our songs!" New **Guardian** address: 1594 SE Skyline, Santa Ana CA 92709.

Jet Circus has released their debut album, called "Step On It". They recalled the first pressing of it in West Germany, but should be out again soon. **Thomas Einarsson** gave it a personal "100 out of 100." The tracks are: "Victory Dance"; "Rockin' Horse"; "Jet Blue"; "Ghost Town"; "Break This Jail"; "Train"; "Let's Dance"; "Run"; "Dress In White"; and the title track. In December, they played two gigs in Germany with **Creed**, **Saint Attack**, and **Shout**. If you would like to order the LP or cassette, (\$20) or the CD (\$25) send order to: The Jet Club, Box 3068, 400 10 Gothenburg S-Sweden.

This year's **Kingdom Bound Festival** will include sets by: **Sacred Warrior**; **Guardian**; **Deliverance**; **The Choir**; **Petra**; and **Whiteheart**; among others. It's a four-day fest 30 minutes from Buffalo, New York from August 22nd to August 25th. For info, write: **Erik Lane**, PO Box 466/341 Washington #2, St. Marys PA 15857; or call (814) 781-3140.

Archon has received some really good name ideas. They just signed a management deal with **Bubba Smith**, who worked with some of the guys in **Ruscha**. **Heaven's Metal** will keep you informed on the "Give The Band A New Name" concert status.

If you're interested in booking **Bloodgood**, contact: **Dick Clark Agency, Inc.**, 3003 W. Olive Ave, Burbank CA 91510; or call **Dennis Condon** at (818) 567-4545 (Serious inquiries only, please).

Jeshaia (pronounced **Yeshaya**) is a strong commercial metal band from Belgium. Their name means "God saves". To contact, write: **Embryo Arts**, Nonnentalaan 52, B-3800 Sint-Truiden, Belgium.

It looks like the Swedish Christian metal band **Simson** is going to have product available in the US through **Cream Of The Crop International**. **Valor** is scheduled to release a couple of videos on the same label. They are: "Fight For Your Life" and "Burn".

St. Asylem is a new Christian metal band that is planning their debut custom release soon. You can write them at: 5650 S. Park Ave, #1110, Tucson AZ 85706.

Heirborne is working on a demo, tentatively titled "Morbidity Reality". They can be reached at: 213 S. Jeffreys, Pleasant Hill MO 64080.

Armada has a new singer, **Luie Bradley**, and some new tunes. Their sound has changed for the better. They are crankin' out some happenin' tunes right now. Expect great things from these guys. Here's their new address: 395 Meadow Lane, Hastings MI 49058.

Wisdom is a new band from Stratford, Connecticut. Write 'em at: 74 Linton St, Stratford CT 06497.

Steve Rowe of **Lightforce** got married December 1st. Congrats **Steve**!

Royal Music is releasing solo albums for **Sonny Larsson** and **Tina Spangberg**, both of whom appeared on **Bjorn Stigsson's** solo album--"Together With Friends". Should be extremely hot stuff! Prior to this release, **Royal** will release a compilation album called "Royal At Its Best", which will feature cuts from **Leviticus** ("Oh Lord", "Isn't It Love", "Feel So Good", "Flames Of Fire", "Suffering Servant"), **Bjorn's** solo album ("Free", "Come Together", "Lovin' My Woman", "It's Alright"), **Q-Stone** ("You Did It For Me", "Sweet Dreams", "I Wait"), and **Edin-Adahl** ("Lonely Without You", "Going Back", "I Know", "Miracle"). **Bjorn's** second solo album has been post-poned for now. **Sonny Larsson** signed a management deal with **David Del Sesto** of **Royal Music**. **Sonny** and his wife, **Kattis**, had their first child recently--a girl named **Natalie**.

Leviticus has been playing a few dates in the States in February. Reports say that they're sounding hotter than ever. **Michael Bloodgood** reports that drummer **Kjell Andersson** has stepped out of the band due to Sweden's mandatory two-year military service.

Janne Nikolausson, the wild drummer for **Charizma**, got married on New Year's Eve. His brothers, **Goran** and **Bosse**, performed **Stryper's** song "My Love I'll Always Show" at the wedding. They also did a new version of **Charizma's** new hit, "Join Hands". The new, comic version was called "Jan Hands".

The Swedish metal zine **Zunrise** doesn't exist anymore. Editor **Thomas Einarsson** felt he didn't have the time for it. He will still report Swedish news in **White Throne**, which--believe it or not--looks like will release their 6th issue this month.

Shadow Wings have been booked with a "very Satanic" band on a small tour of the big rock clubs in the "Twin Cities" area of Minneapolis, Minnesota. They're billing it as the "Heaven And Hell" gig.

Electrik have their own hotline, the "Shine Line": (213) 735-8887.

Barren Cross...boy, the rumors have been flyin' about them lately. No, **Ray** is not beating his wife. It looks like some personnel changes may or may not happen. The band is still under contract and is basically on hold, trying to figure out what they oughta do. Meanwhile, they're releasing a tape called "Hotter Than Hell", which features several live cuts and previously-unreleased songs. Look for it now. Their video is finally gonna be released...on **Polygram Records**. It will feature live footage, interviews, and several behind-

the-scenes stuff. Look for that late this Spring.

Frontline is releasing a soundtrack for **The Power Team**. It will have 14 cuts of all previously-unreleased material from: **Magdallan**; **Angelica**; **Sacred Warrior**; **Idle Cure**; **David Zaffiro**; **Mark Farner**; and other Frontline artists. What's funny is, this album will probably sell better than all of Frontline's best-selling albums put together, because of the massive public awareness **The Power Team** has.

Xalt, **Eternal RYTE**, and **Tony Rossi** all have product coming out soon via **Pure Metal/Refuge**. **Jim Erdman**, the guitarist for **Xalt** and author of this issue's "Musician's Quill", produced the debut album for **Seraiah--"Carnival World"**.

Friends of **Carlos Vasquez** can reach him now at his new address: 37 Forest Grove Dr, Daly City CA 94015.

Petra finished their best tour in their history in 1989. They had over 30 dates, where they performed to over 120,000 in all, with an average crowd of 4,000 per night. The tour was called "Who Do You Listen To: Sex In The Age Of AIDS Tour", which featured speaker **Josh McDowell**. More than 6,000 people came forward to commit or recommit their lives to Christ. Also, over 95% of the audience stood to indicate a decision to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Overdrive is a new Christian metal band from **Blacksburg, Virginia**. They just released a 7-song custom tape. It's \$8.75, PO Box 11153, **Blacksburg VA 24060**.

The **Michigan-based Armor** has picked up a new lead singer, **Dave Wall**. Their demo tape is sold out, as a new tape release is being planned. **Armor**, 9585 Tasker Rd, **Bellevue MI 49021**.

Breakfast With Amy's debut album should be out now. They are fronted by **Psychedelic Dave**, the former lead guitarist for **Mad At The World**. For musical references, mix the 60's sound of **The Turtles** or **The Doors** with the 80's style of music like **Jane's Addiction** or **Adam Ant**. Their live gigs are supposed to be totally bizarre, and fun.

Greg Sostrom, formerly of **The Lonely Now**, will be releasing a solo album on **Narrowpath** in May. **The Swoon**, who won the **Alternative new band competition** at **Cornerstone '88**, have released their debut album. Five of the songs were produced by **Charlie Peacock**. Look for a sound like early **U2**, **Ocean Blue**, and **The Smiths**.

The **Alternative New Talent Stage** at **Cornerstone** will be sponsored this year by **Myrrh**. The winners will appear on a compilation "Cornerstone '90" album. For entry guidelines, see the **R.E.X.** ad this issue.

Scott Wesley Brown has been performing illegal Christian concerts behind the **Iron Curtain** long before **Perestroika**. **Brown** is now planning a trip to **East Berlin** and **Budapest, Hungary** in August. His missions organization, **I CARE (Christian Artists Reaching the Earth) Ministries**, will be hosting the first public Christian concerts and musicians seminars for those newly liberated countries. They've been providing instruments and musical training for Christian musicians in



Dave Bach (Guardian) & Ty Tabor (King's X) hammin' it up.

communist and third world countries since 1983. A team of "musicianaries" travels with **Brown** to equip and teach these musicians who are starving for musical and biblical knowledge. An **I CARE "instrument bank"** receives instruments from anyone who wants to donate their dusty, attic-ridden guitars, trumpets, keyboards, etc. Worthy Christian musicians in **Africa**, **East Germany**, the **Soviet Union**, and a host of other countries are recipients of these donated instruments. If you'd like to contact **I CARE Ministries**, write: 40 Music Square East, **Nashville, Tennessee 37203**, (615) 244-5588.

Sixteen poets will be featured in **Gut Level Honesty**, a collection of writings covering the hard part of our faith. Will be released in May. The cost is \$3.50. Write: PO Box 915, **Muskegon MI 49443-0915**.

"Metal Missionaries For Teens" is a grassroots support group/pen-pals that exist to encourage the rockers in the body. Write: 1401 Smythe, **Plainview TX 79072**.

Any band willing to make a missionary trip to **Phoenix** and play at the new **David's Cave**, contact **Darrell Hamrick** at (602) 938-1866.

Andy Lyons, formerly of **Angelica**, is forming a band. Anyone who plays bass, **Taurus Pedals**; or drums, and wants to audition, write: 109 Young St. #3, **Kitchener, Ontario, CANADA, N2H-4Z2**.

The **Florida-based Angelica** reviewed in Issue #21 has found a new name: **Cryer**. They're working with **V.T.O. Records** for a future release.

If you want to join **Anton Myers** in trying to convince **Star Song** to reissue the early **REZ** albums on cd, write 'em at: **Star Song Records**, Attn: **Debbie Bowers**, 2325 **Crestmoor Rd**, **Nashville TN 37215**.

Mark Farner has a tour hotline: (616) 348-3573.

Any metal, punk, thrash, hard-rockin' bands touring in **Southern California** need to contact **Daniel Hernandez**, who will announce your concert on his station free of charge. Write: PO Box 6828, **Glendale CA 91225**.

Rusty Carver & Master's Metal Ministries has access to cable tv programming in **Houston**. Any bands with video programs contact him for airplay. Also, **Rusty** and gang are thinking of starting a Christian metal radio show and desire input/advice from you. Write 'em at: 11150 **Beamer #437**, **Houston TX 77089**.

Archangel, the **Dayton, Ohio-based** band--not the ones from **Florida**, are making their debut on the **Big Rage!** compilation disc. They've also got a three-song tape, called "Heaven Sent". For info, write: 206 N. **Springboro Pike**, Suite 177, **Dayton OH 45449**.

RECORD REVIEWS

Recommendations this issue go to: The Crucified's debut album; Most High's demo; "The Money Mask" by Armageddon; "Once Dead" by Vengeance;

Reviewers this issue are John Wilson, Todd Pannell, and Doug Van Pelt. John resides in Austin, Texas. He was the rhythm guitarist of the band MISL (now extinct). Todd also resides in Austin (funny coincidence) and has his own video show on public access cable television here, called "Reel Visions". Of course, he's often coerced into showing lots of metal videos.

"ONCE DEAD" - VENGEANCE RISING

This album is hot! It doesn't match the intensity of their classic debut, but it doesn't disappoint. More of the band's roots (the blues-metal of the early 70's) show up here than before, which is performed with guts and precision. I thought the snare drum sound in some songs could've been beefed up some more, but these five guys continue to amaze me with their creativity and prowess at speed metal.

The standout cut, in my opinion, is the anti-drug tune: "Can't Get Out", which features a change-up in the vocal delivery by Roger Martinez. The chorus has a great hook that begs to be sung along to.

Some of the other vocal changes are in "Out Of The Will", where he sings with a kind of British accent--sounding like Anthrax; "Frontal Lobotomy", with super-growling vocals; and "Among The Dead", where he's just wailing with desperation as he basically cries, "Time here is so short...we've got to redeem the time."

One tune not penned by the band goes back to their roots: Deep Purple's "Space Truckin'". Roger gives it a new meaning--the Rapture of God's saints. I wonder what Ritchie Blackmore is going to think if and when he hears it. It's definitely undergone the thrash transformation.

A great addition here is the inclusion of scripture references amidst the lyrics; inserted exactly where they back up the lyrics. This makes for a good Bible study. Try going over the song "Among The Dead" before an evangelistic excursion...

Fans of thrash will love this album, and those on the fence between thrash and straight-ahead metal will be glad to know that Vengeance Rising has expanded their sound. Check it out.

--DV

MOST HIGH - (Demo)

This four-song tape features some professional, blues-based heavy metal with some truth-proclaiming, evangelistic lyrics. Vocalist Rich Basinger sounds quite a bit like vocalist Jack Russell of Great White, with lots of range and bottom-end.

Guitarist Roland Fife recorded a good guitar tone, with just the right amount of heavy metal crunch.

These four musicians have been playing for several years, and it shows up here with

what seems like a relaxed performance. It's loose and has energy and space, yet remains tight chopwise. Nothing spectacular, just solid.

Most High is very active playing live in Ohio, which means they're only getting better. This tape is one of those rare custom releases that you just have to get a hold of. To do that, send \$5 to: Most High, PO Box 1791, Warren OH 44482 (Please make checks payable to Most High).

--DV

"BEAT THE HEAT" - LEX REX

Those of you who bought their custom tape of the same name already know that this band knows how to get the lead out and rock!



They were signed by Pantrax, who re-released their custom tape. This release (in cassette and cd) has been re-EQ'd and digitally mastered. If you thought the first release was hot, this one really punches!

Also included in this upfront music is a recipe for their "Blue Metal Chili"

--DV

"THE MONEY MASK" - ARMAGEDDON

Armageddon wastes no time letting us know what their sound is like. No long keyboard intros here. They charge off with the title track in high gear. Those of you who miss the sound of Saint (or Judas Priest) will embrace the straight-ahead style of Armageddon.

These sledgehammer rockers aren't a parody of their style, though. They even tackle an anthem-like tune, called "Mercenaries Of Unjustice". "The Ship Of Changes" takes another departure--this time into power ballad land.

"Blazing Wastelands", which appeared on the East Coast Metal album, makes a reappearance here. This sounds like a faster version. It smokes! There's plenty of blazing lead

fills all over the song.

"We're Outta Here" and "Giving It To You" are two accessible rockers, suitable for airplay, due to the catchy hook planted into the chorus.

Overall, this is a simple tape: You put it on, blast your senses with non-stop, straight-ahead metal. No frills, no keyboards. It's simple.

--DV

"THE FINAL CONFLICT" - SEKEL

Here is something special: Puerto Rico's first Christian thrash metal band. The first thing to do before listening to this is: to not expect some backwards metal from a third world-type source. These guys are tight, innovative, and aggressive.

The production is lame at points, but it doesn't take away from the lightning-fast playing recorded here. If you're willing to sacrifice a little bit of fidelity, Sekel has several tunes of hardcore thrash for ya.

Songs like "A.S.B. (Anti-Satanic Brigade)" and "The Final Conflict" cover the end-time and present day destruction of Satan and his forces.

What else can I say here? This is some serious thrash/speed metal. To order, send \$6 c/o Rob Wynter, C-6-F-21 Hnas. Davila, Bayamon, Puerto Rico 00619.

--DV

"WHEN MADNESS STRIKES" - MENTAL DESTRUCTION

Okay all you moshers out there, for informational purposes, Industrial music is sort of like electronic noise, sometimes with distorted vocals.

Well, Mental Destruction is definitely an industrial band, and the best way to describe their tape is to call it a cross between a low-budget horror soundtrack and ambient industrial sounds. Don't get me wrong, now. There are actually a lot of people who get into this stuff, especially in Europe, where this band is from (Sweden). In fact, some of the more progressive secular industrial bands, like Front 242 and Ministry, are becoming a popular replacement for the old punk movement.

"When Madness Strikes" reminds me of old SPK, before they became techno-pop (for those of you who may have some idea of what I'm talking about).

It starts off with an excellent instrumental called, "Dark, Black, And Without Form". It is followed by three okay tunes that make me thankful for the lyric sheet, which is, of course, the way most industrial music sounds.

After that comes a couple of great tunes, called: "The Walls Of Madness"; and "Illusion". No compromising here, with lyrics like, "Give Christ your life", and the final tune, "The Lord Reigns". This is definitely a Christian album, seeking to reach out to the lost. I must also mention that the tape has excellent production values.

I'm not sure how all you metalheads

would react to Mental Destruction, but I would recommend it for anyone who is into gloom and doom electronic music.

To order, send \$8 cash to: Metal Cross, Hallmansv. 26, S-55259 Jonkoping, Sweden.

--TP

"CRUX OF THE MOSH"

- TORN FLESH

Some Christian bands choose a subtle approach to the ministry; some are more direct...then there is Torn Flesh.

With the sincerity of the apostle Paul and the intensity of Pastor Larry Lea's stare, this aptly-titled, rough-edged 12-song hardcore assortment puts you in your place, disciples you, and blows your speakers.

While trying desperately to read along with Greg Hudson's speed vocals, I was reminded of Vengeance's "He Is God" and One Bad Pig's "Godarchy" (formerly "Anarchy Is Prison"), except Greg doesn't scream it. He barks it--faster than someone praying the sinner's prayer while freefalling to his death from 1,000 feet. At some points I just had to wonder if this was Lust Control on a really good day, with Freddy Krueger all born-again, filling in on vocals.

Every cut on this album is a masterpiece of its own, which makes choosing a stand-out an uneasy task. If forced to decide, I would say "World Pollution" and the title track most unabashedly cut to the bone:

"It's all world pollution/ It will all need to change/ Starting with your heart/ That you need to rearrange/ It's all world pollution/ So you don't complain/ If you keep ignoring God/ Then your life's stained."--World Pollution

Marvelous production and a penchant for relating soul-prodding conviction round out this tasty hardcore slab, making it a definite milestone in the evolution (that's right, I said it) of Christian metal.

Buy a copy of "Crux Of The Mosh" for a high-strung, unsaved mosher, and see if it doesn't totally psyche him out...er, I mean, uh...put the fear of God into him.

Torn Flesh address some serious spiritual concerns, yours and mine (and usually focusing on finding a turning point toward God), with a godly perspective, leaving few stones unturned...for now.

--JW

"RAW MEAT" - RED INK

Here's some crunchy, good ole' thrash. The EQ is poor, but these are good songs and good chops. The musicianship is tight. The lyrics are upfront, and in the evangelistic mode:

"Choose today/ Whom you will serve...Satan has no authority/ I give none to him/ By the blood of Christ/ I am cleansed of sin/ Satan must flee..."--Choose Today A Kingdom

"Submissive will/ Obedient heart/ This holy temple/ Is set apart/ For Your use/ And You alone/ In this body/ Can make Your home."--Flesh 'N' Blood

Fans of The Lead should love it. This is good thrash. I do mean good, too! Turn this one up and bang your head.

To order, send \$6 plus \$1 postage (Texas residents add 8% sales tax) to: Red Ink, 3523 El James, Spring TX 77388.

--DV

THE CRUCIFIED

Here's some heavy thrash music that should please both the thrash metal and hardcore crowds. "The Pit" starts things off with some Larry Farkas-sounding wah-wah guitar screams from Greg Minier. This song and "Thread" have the most metal-type solos on the album. It describes the swirling fun of a mosh pit, while encouraging those with "violent thoughts" to take 'em elsewhere.

Cruisin' tunes with a deep groove, like "Your Image", really make this album enjoyable. Vocalist Marc Salaman sings with rapid-fire passion and guts. Jim Chaffin got a pretty good sound on his snares...they could be beefier, but the bass drums have enough punch to make up for it on most songs. The rhythm chops of Greg Minier and bassist Mark Johnson came off thick and heavy.

"One Demon To Another" is a Marc Salaman look into the world of the spirit a la Frank Peretti. Two demons are circling a boy who rejects Christ, waiting to escort him to hell. It ends with the finality of a slamming door.

"A Guy In A Suit And The Pope" parallels the life of a crooked tv preacher and the pope.

"The Insult Circus" is a brief dissertation on the hypocrisy of thrash bands like Slayer and Anthrax, who hide behind the guise of social commentary without offering any answers. These bands are named too, which is kinda funny:

"...boys from South of Heaven, who knock tv preachers with every other word/ You come off so concerned and charge \$20+ for a t-shirt...you couldn't care less if I rot in hell...the band named after the cow disease...if you're so wise, then solve my troubles/ Instead you ask more needless questions and my troubles double."

"Crucial Moment" ends the album with a rallying cry for unity in the body of Christ "with love". This is a crowd-pleaser in concert. It mixes some funky grooves with some rap delivery and snare drilling.

The album speeds along at a break-neck pace. This is a very solid effort by a tight band. If you're into Vengeance Rising, Believer, and The Lead, you'll definitely, positively love The Crucified's debut album.

--DV

"HEAVY RIGHTEOUS METAL, CHAPTER TWO" - Various

Xalt starts off this compilation album with a hot, rockin' tune called "Piercing The Darkness". They mix a choice blend of a rockin' bass line, melodic guitar leads, and a commercial chorus. If this is an indication of what their debut

album is gonna be like, then we're in for a treat this month.

The only other tunes not found on other Pure Metal releases are by Lust Control and Legacy. "Madolyn Murray O'Hair", by LC, suffers the stigma of being the least quality produced tune on the album, yet keeps the thrash tempo set by The Crucified's cut, "Hellcorn", and Torn Flesh's theme song. An unannounced 12-second cut, "Wretched", appears mysteriously.

Legacy, who placed in last year's New Talent contest at Cornerstone, make a fine debut with a heavy melodic tune called "Cross The Line". Quick double-bass drumming and a tight rhythm section accent the fine vocals with lots of flair.

Side two features: "Your Attention Please" by Whitecross; "Rock For The Light" by Tempest; "I'm Ready" by Rosanna's Raiders; One Bad Pig's polka punk ditty--"Looney Tune"; and "Until The End We Rock" by Bride.

All good cuts, making a decent compilation album.

--DV

"ERA OF CONDOLENCE"

- THE THROES

Fans of The Cry, The Beatles, and R.E.M. should really enjoy this energetic group from Fairfax, Virginia. Nice packaging, nice production, and nice acoustic guitars grace this seven-song tape.

It looks like a label is in the process of picking up this band--smart move! These guys show maturity in their musicianship and their songwriting. The music makes you hum and the lyrics make you think.

You can pick up a copy of this soon-to-be out-of-print cassette via Spring Arbor. Look forward to their debut album on ??? Records.

--DV

"CHILDREN OF CHOICES"

- MICHAEL GLEASON

Take the smooth vocals you heard from Michael Gleason on AD's first two albums, and mix it with the commercial rock of the Elefante-penned Kansas tunes...and you get a good idea of the quality found here. Fans of Petra will drop their mouths open with awe. This music is impeccably produced, as each song crafts a good melody with layers of BGV's and keys.

So, you're going, "BGV's, keys, Petra? hmmm...sounds like pop music." Well, you guessed right. Fans of AD's complex "Livgren-orchestrations" will be disappointed at the lack of classically-influenced, high-techno progressive music. It's close. Pakaderm has coined a good descriptive phrase to describe it: "Progressive power pop."

With "Children Of Choices", Michael Gleason holds its own with the likes of Jefferson Starship, thanks to his own skills as a songwriter, and the production skills of John and Dino at Pakaderm. There's a full band sound.

The lyrics stake their claim at the

heart of our biggest choices: between flesh and spirit; darkness and light; hell and heaven.

It'll be a shame if Michael doesn't get the wide attention he deserves.

--DV

HALO

Remember the excitement that spread across the scene when Idle Cure's debut album hit the airwaves? Here's a band with identical talent. HALO is smokin' hot. They come screamin' out of your speakers with a polished commercial/arena rock sound that should reach a broad audience. Maximum energy with minimum distortion (guitar-wise).

They're skillful in their craft, taking you slowly with them on an altar call-type ballad ("Soul Searcher"), and then jetting you right back up again with a rousing rocker ("Lord Of All").

Several cuts here will probably see A/C radio airplay (that's "adult contemporary" for those of you not entrenched in the radio field).

"Deny yourself, take your cross and follow Him" is the message from these Spirit-filled musicians.

High quality power pop for the faint of heart and the rocker.

--DV

ASLAN - (Demo)

Aslan offers a new demo consisting of two mainstream rockers, a la Foreigner--"Break Away" and "Tear Down The Walls"; and two ballads--the invitational "Open Your Heart" and the soul-searching "Shadow Of Your Wings". MTV veggies will appreciate this. All songs seem a bit long, but are creatively orchestrated. With proper production, this might warrant serious investigation from serious A&R reps. Work on it.

For ordering info, write: Aslan, Route 2, Box 240, Clinton KY 42031.

--JW

"DISTANT EARLY WARNING" - (Demo)

Despite the mysterious-sounding name, Distant Early Warning comes through with straight-ahead rock from the word "go".

"Frontline" starts the endeavor with a compelling guitar bite, carrying you through the song without a hitch. Next, we soar into a more sedate number: "Distant Early Warning", which cautions the worldly listener to heed the writing on the wall. Finally, we're rocking again as the lead singer, Casper J. Hill, hypothetically laments having missed salvation, and warns us against the same in "Fynal Flyght".

To order, send \$4 to: Distant Early Warning, 909 Willoubar Ter, High Point NC 27262.

--JW

"INVISIBLE" - JEREMY MORRIS

Now this is an interesting tape. Imagine Survivor, E.L.O., and The Beatles intertwined, with just a touch of early Motown-style keyboarding, and you might have an idea of what we have here musically.

Jeremy Morris composes, plays, and sings all of his own songs, handling all instrumental parts with the exception of some of the drumming and percussion duties. The most interesting facet here is the vocals. He recorded using the "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds" verse mode as his standard, quite a switch from the obligatory growling of most rock vocalists. What's neat is, this airy vocal style is arrayed over a strong, plodding tempo in some places, and soft keyboards in others--yet never sounding out of place.

"Invisible" is an encouraging collection of tunes that invite, encourage, and inspire the listener on to a more intimate walk with the Lord (Who is but implied in some cases), while sharing personal devotions in other instances.

An amazing 64-minutes long, "Invisible" has its share of heavier rhythms, but stays mostly in the mainstream vein, spicy guitar parts notwithstanding. My personal favorites are the opener, "I Wanna Be With You", the title track, and the last of the 15 (!) songs: "My Heart Is Broken".

While the new Christian or your latest potential-friend-in-the-Lord may not gain much from this undertaking, any secret aficionados of Daniel Amos, The Nation (defunct), or The Swirling Eddies ought to give this a listen.

To order, send \$10 to: JAM Records, 3424 Wedgewood Drive, Kalamazoo MI 49008.

--JW

"BLACK OR WHITE" - STRAIGHTWAY

Texas, known for its strong music communities, yields a polished new rock band for Christ: Houston-based Straightway. With melodic rhythms and superior vocals, their debut release stands out with promise, especially because its casual musical stance contrasted with honest, basic lyrics. Vocalist David Walton's classy style is just begging to be compared with that of Stryper's Michael Sweet, although David sings a bit lower. Harmony vocals highlight most choruses, making them instantly memorable.

I was pleased to find a rap song tacked on the tail end of the cassette, highlighting the talents of three band members, not including the lead vocalist. Entitled "Don't Even Swerve", it was amusing, albeit short.

Of special note is a song called "Wounded Heart", which touches deeply, exemplifying/demoting empathy toward neglected children, reassuring them of God's special love.

"Black Or White" comes across in a sensible, statesmanlike way, assuring accessibility. A glitzy cover shot completes the project, rendering it a savory package. Don't miss it.

To order, send \$6.95 for cassette/\$9.95 for cd, plus \$2 shipping to: Platinum Records, PO Box 24280, Houston TX 77229.

--JW

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MYRRH



PROMOTION WOES

We had Sacred Warrior and Paradox here recently. We've started a Bible study to facilitate follow-up. The kids have been coming real diligently. We, as promoters, need to put our heads together to discuss proper promotion, treatment of the bands, etc.

--Mike Boyd (512) 993-8924
Chorpus Christi, Texas

GLOSSY DAYS

I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate the different glossy paper used for the cover on Issue #23. It looks nice and so far it has stood up to the abuse of reading it through once. The cover to #22 was damaged on its way to me in the mail.

Congratulations on the best magazine out.

--Pete Gordon
Columbus, Ohio

RADICAL TEES

Where can I order Christian tees, besides from the order forms included with cassettes?

--Dawn Wingfield
N. Highlands, California
...(Get the Big Rage Catalog--they'll send it to ya free--where you can order T-shirts, tapes, etc. Write: Big Rage Productions, PO Box 9318, Waukegan IL 60079-9318; or call (708) BIG-RAGE.--ed)

REAL POSERS

I recently saw Rapture in Albuquerque and I thought about how a lot of Christian thrashers call bands like Guardian and Stryper "posers", because of their commercial sound and look. The real posers are bands like Slayer, Metallica, and Testament. They sing about Satan and stuff, yet don't practice what they preach.

By the way, Rapture announced that they're changing their name to "The Moshketeers".

--Scott Waters
Albuquerque, New Mexico

FORGIVENESS

I just had to let you know how much I appreciate your article on forgiveness (Issue #22). It really meant a lot to me. Even though I've been a Christian for several years, I often find it hard to forgive people. It seems that the devil's favorite way to attack me is to get me feeling bitter towards people who have hurt me (even if it happened a long time ago). It's something I've been praying about and trying to overcome.

Your article appeared just when I needed it. I was browsing through your magazine at a bookstore; and there it was on the back. I bought the issue, and the whole issue is good, but that article in particular really helped me. I'll probably read it many times (as well as the Scripture passage cited in it). All I can say is: "Thank You, Lord; and thank you, Heaven's Metal.

--"Me"

St. Louis, Missouri

...(Thanks for your encouragement.

That's probably the most exciting part of each issue for me. Praise the Lord!--ed)

RIZZEN ROX?

What happened to Rizen Roxx? I've sent money in twice and should have more issues coming.

--Casey Petersen
Inman, Nebraska

...(It looks like they have folded. Former writer Phil Powell tells me it's a secular magazine now.--ed)

SPRING ARBOR

I hear about this mysterious "Spring Arbor" constantly. The only thing I know is they sell music. I wanted to see if I could mail order through Spring Arbor.

--Gary Bean

Woodland, California

...(Spring Arbor is a distributor that most, if not all, of the Christian bookstores in America get their product from. They aren't a mail-order place, like Big Rage! or Mailbox Music. They ship stuff to retail accounts. The reason they're mentioned so often is that they have a hip music buyer, Mike Delaney, who regularly stocks radical custom products, like Paradox, Martyr, The Warning, etc. If you place a special order at a Christian bookstore, you will, at no extra charge, receive your order within a matter of days.--ed)

ACCOUNTABILITY

In addendum to the accountability article in Issue #21, where an emphasis was placed on proper fitting with the rest of the body, I want to point out that we need to properly line up with the head of the body--Jesus Christ. Then we will naturally relate to the rest of the body, because that is the character of Christ.

--Doug Van Pelt
Planet Earth

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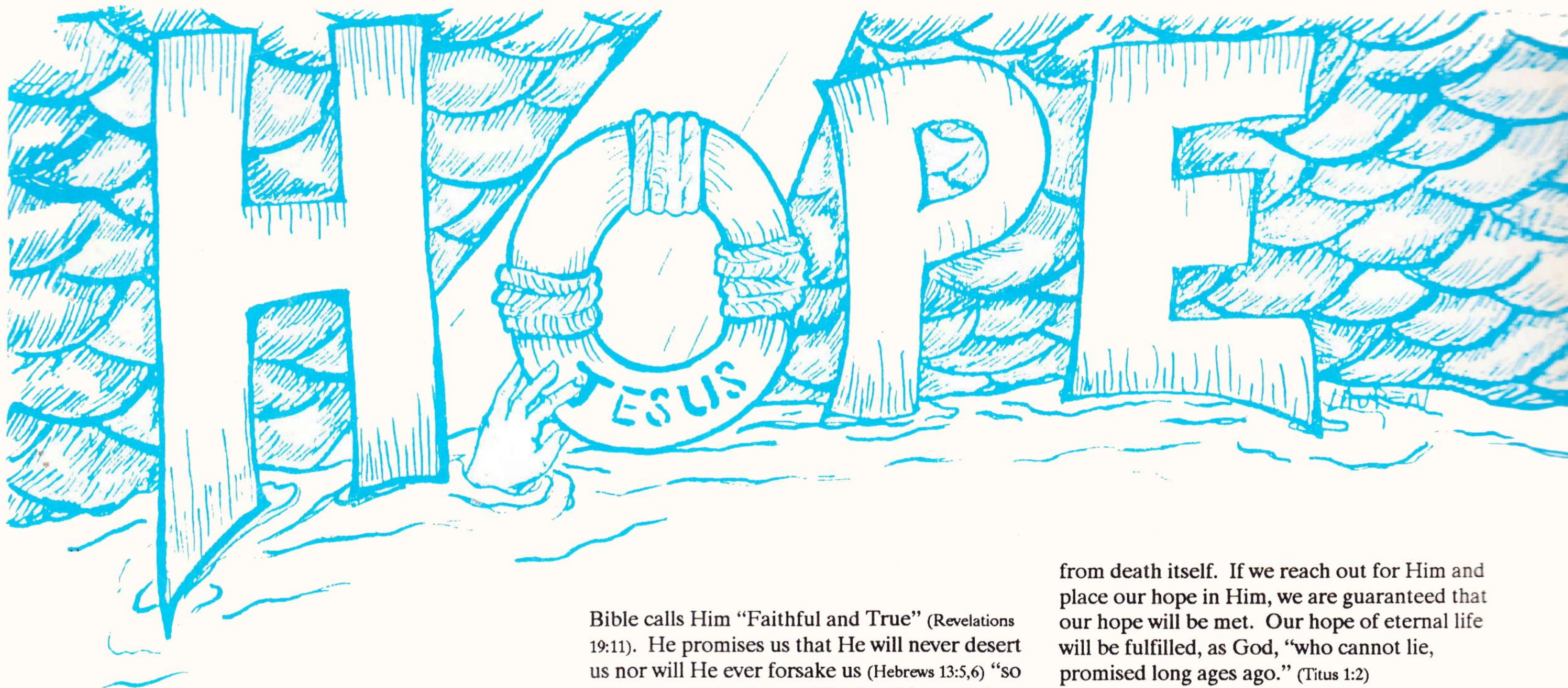
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Hope. When we need it. I mean, when we really, really need it, it better be in something that's not going to let us down.

We usually think of hope when we're in a situation that's bad. Hope is the opposite of despair, and we usually reach out for hope when we're in a despairing situation. If we're sinking, and being tossed about by stormy seas, we're wanting that life preserver to be something that will keep us afloat.

There are a lot of things that we can put our hopes in. We can put them in situations, jobs, money, friends, rock stars, politicians, degrees, luck, superstition, witchcraft, religion, health, doctors, lawyers, meditation, good works, teachers, preachers, magazines, books, life, governments, or Jesus. Jesus is the only Person that we can trust, Who will never let us down. All of the other options are fallible.

Jesus is infallible. He is called the Rock of our salvation. He is never-changing. The Bible says "Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

Jesus is someone we can trust. The

Bible calls Him "Faithful and True" (Revelations 19:11). He promises us that He will never desert us nor will He ever forsake us (Hebrews 13:5,6) "so that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?'"

Jesus is reliable, where all others fail. He is a "tested stone. A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed." (Isaiah 28:16)

We don't have to worry that someone or something will catch God off guard, and send us spinning. Jesus is the Lord God Almighty. Do you know of anyone else with a title like that? Nobody can take Jesus off the throne. He rules with all power and all might. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15).

He is definitely worthy of our trust and the only One eternally reliable as the object of our hope. All His words are true, and He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6)

It goes without saying that, if you have not come to the Father through Jesus, you are without hope! God has given us Himself as a refuge, a safe place, from evil--

from death itself. If we reach out for Him and place our hope in Him, we are guaranteed that our hope will be met. Our hope of eternal life will be fulfilled, as God, "who cannot lie, promised long ages ago." (Titus 1:2)

It is God's plan to give us encouragement and strength. "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast." (Hebrews 6:19) If you lack hope, read the Bible. "For whatever was written in earlier times (the Old Testament) was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

Once we have this hope, this refuge, this wonderful Savior, we can weather any storm. Therefore, since we've been "justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:1-5)



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